

'My Catch22 worker gave me support to help me move. I feel more comfortable now and it's good to have the same person to talk to...My adviser is a lifeline.'

Young person



Less than 1% of children are in care, and yet almost a quarter of the adult prison population and half of all young men under the age of 21 in the criminal justice system have spent time in care. 25% of homeless people were previously in care, and only 6% move into higher education.

To protect identities, images are not specific to Catch22's LAC services, but are of others involved with Catch22.

Our approach

Catch22 has more than 200 years of experience providing public services that help people turn their lives around. We support care leavers through our statutory leaving care services and across our wider provision. We tailor our support for looked after children and care leavers to offer practical and sustainable ways to improve their life chances.

Looked after children in our alternative education provision are supported with individual education plans, with each school offering strategies and a designated member of staff to support them. Our leaving care services provide support for the transition from care to independence to ensure care leavers have the same opportunities as other young people. Our leaving care services are provided at this crucial time to prevent the long-term negative impact caused by a lack of suitable housing, employment or emotional support.

We continue to support looked after children once they have left care. Our Care2Work employment scheme, for example, provides support for those seeking employment or apprenticeships, while our justice provision supports those who become involved in gangs towards positive lifestyle choices and behaviours.

Proven results



189 care leavers supported through Care2Work (April '15 – January '16)

- **77%** got interviews
- **50%** of those started work or an apprenticeship
- **80%** were full time jobs or apprenticeships



65 looked after children supported through our Reintegration, KS3 and 4 and Turnaround education projects (2014/15)

- **91%** completed their projects
- **89%** moved on to positive destinations



90% of families supported by our rapid response service did not have their child placed in local authority care at the end of the intervention.

"There are also examples of local sharing of good practice, such as the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum, whose members' Ofsted ratings are on average better than for non-members."

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts Care leavers' transition to adulthood inquiry



“The NLCBF plays a key role in promoting sector-led improvement of leaving care support services.”

Robert MacPherson, Children in Care,
Department for Education

Catch22’s wide ranging provision enables us to deliver holistic support to looked after children and care leavers, and our work with the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum ensures we are at the forefront of best practice.

At the heart of best practice

Catch22 runs the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF), the largest membership forum specialising in leaving care in the UK. We have an active membership of 82 local authorities from all over England and Northern Ireland. The Forum shares best practice and promotes the voice of care leavers through the Young People’s Benchmarking Forum.

Empower and Protect

Catch22 is piloting new approaches to supporting children and young people at risk of or experiencing child sexual exploitation across South Yorkshire. The Empower and Protect programme recruits and trains specialist foster carers across the sub-region, who are given wrap-around therapeutic support by our team of psychologists and youth workers. The focus is on wrapping expert therapeutic support around the workers that directly support looked after children, as well as embedding wider system change through bringing mental health disciplines into the social care context.

Reducing admissions into care

Catch22 offers intensive, short-term support to families in crisis. We de-escalate crisis situations, liaise across services and deliver appropriate levels of monitoring and intervention to ensure children and young people are safeguarded. This intensive support in emergency situations helps to prevent, where appropriate, admission into care.

Our extended offer to care leavers

Catch22’s diverse national network of services means that we are able to support looked after children and care leavers in a variety of settings, including:

- alternative education provision
- support for children who go missing and/or experience sexual exploitation
- skills development programmes such as the National Citizen Service
- housing support and a peer-landlord scheme
- apprenticeships and employability services, including Care2Work
- engagement within prison or youth offenders institutes.

Fostering independence

As specialists in providing services for young people, Catch22 understands the importance of providing quality transitional support. Our supported and supportive accommodation services for care leavers help them to secure tenancies and address issues that may prevent them from living independently. As well as receiving practical housing and budgeting support, they are enabled to feel safe, secure and valued in their community and confident in their ability to manage the practicalities of life.

For more information visit
catch-22.org.uk/care-leavers