

# Care Leavers Partnership

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# Care Leavers Partnership

## What is the Care Leavers Partnership?

Southwark Council and Catch22 have been working in partnership since May 2017, with the aim of designing and testing new ways of working to support the borough's care leavers.

This project is known as the Care Leavers Partnership (CLP) and has been funded by the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Fund until March 2020.

## The Care Leavers Partnership is built on a set of core beliefs:

- Services must be designed by the people who use them and work in them
- New ways of working must enable closer relationships between education, health, housing, and social services
- Southwark is a vibrant community with lots to offer young people. We must tap into the resources of the community, work closely with the wider council and businesses, in Southwark and beyond.

## What progress have we made?

Over the course of the project, we have worked alongside young people, staff and partners to co-design new elements of the service to try out. The approaches we are piloting include:

- A programme of targeted group work activities aimed at reducing isolation. We are also exploring evening and weekend activities
- An innovative personal development course that provides wrap around support to young people, motivating them to reach their potential

- Recruitment of new staff including a sustainable network coordinator to unlock social capital within young people's networks – engaging families and local communities
- Clinical approaches to working based on the STAIRS model (a framework which makes it easier for professionals to access a range of therapeutic and practical approaches)

## How will we know if it is working?

The work is being independently evaluated so that we understand how our work is making a difference, to enable continual learning and reflection, so that we get it right for young people leaving care.

Sustainability is key to the success of the project which is why we are continuously reflecting on which parts are working well so that we can make long term plans.

Our aim is to also to develop good practice to be shared with other areas of the country striving to improve the lives of care leavers.

## If you would like more information about the CLP, or would like to get involved in our work, please contact:

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