
Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Care Experienced
Young Adult

What is a 'care experienced young adult'?

From the age of 16, a young person in the care of B&NES has the option to leave care but is not legally obliged to.

However, by the age of 18, the young person is no longer the legal responsibility of the Local Authority and will no longer be looked after.

Some young adults will move out of the foster home or care home they were living in and find their own accommodation.

Whatever their circumstances, young adults who have been in the care of B&NES, are known as 'care experienced'.

Care experienced young adults are at high risk of becoming NEET (not in Education, Employment or Training).

They are also more likely, due to their early life experiences, to experience a range of further challenges which can impact on their wellbeing and ability to engage in meaningful work. Sometimes these challenges can remain for life.

Corporate Parenting responsibilities

- All elected members and all Officers take on the role of “Corporate Parent” to children looked after and those who are care experienced young adults within B&NES.
- They have a duty to take an interest in the wellbeing and development of those children as if they were their own.
- Just like parenting in a family does not stop when a child becomes an adult at 18, we have a duty to support care experienced young adults until they are 25 years.
- As a corporate parent we ask the question ‘**would this be good enough for my child?**’

What can you do to help

- **Ring fenced** apprenticeships for care experienced young adults
- **Mentorships**
- Offer a **guaranteed interview** (and constructive feedback) to applicants who identify as care experienced and meet minimum criteria for the role.
- Assign a **workplace buddy** for care experienced employees to provide informal support and guidance and help in navigating the organization.
- Create and communicate **clear boundaries and high expectations** for our care experienced employees to ensure their time with you is a growing and challenging one.
- Approach our care experienced young adults in your employment with **compassion and empathy**, recognising that there may be a high level of disruption in their personal lives.

What can we do to help you

- All employers, as well as mentors and work experience providers, will be linked to a member of the care experienced team who will provide guidance and support through a formal offer.
- This aims to ensure that the employer better understands the needs of the young adult and is supported to meet these, therefore maximising opportunities for a successful employment/work experience/mentorship relationship.
- Consent will be needed from the care leaver.

If you would like to discuss further or have opportunities to share please contact;

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