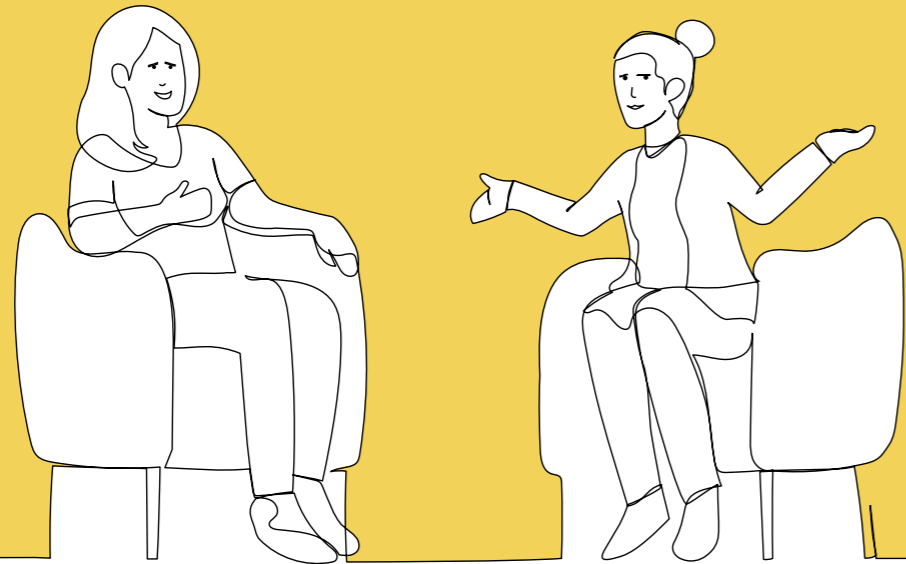




More help for Care Leavers

What's it all about?

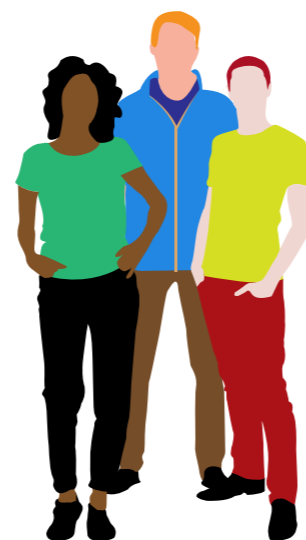


When young people come to the stage of leaving their family home, they are usually able to get help from a range of family members and friends.

Young people who are leaving care often don't have that support available to them. The Department of Health wants to make sure that all care leavers get the support they need to be able to live independently.

A while ago we set out lots of ideas for making this happen - and we asked all sorts of people, including care leavers, to tell us what they thought. Most people told us they agreed with our ideas.

We now have two more ideas that we want to ask you about.



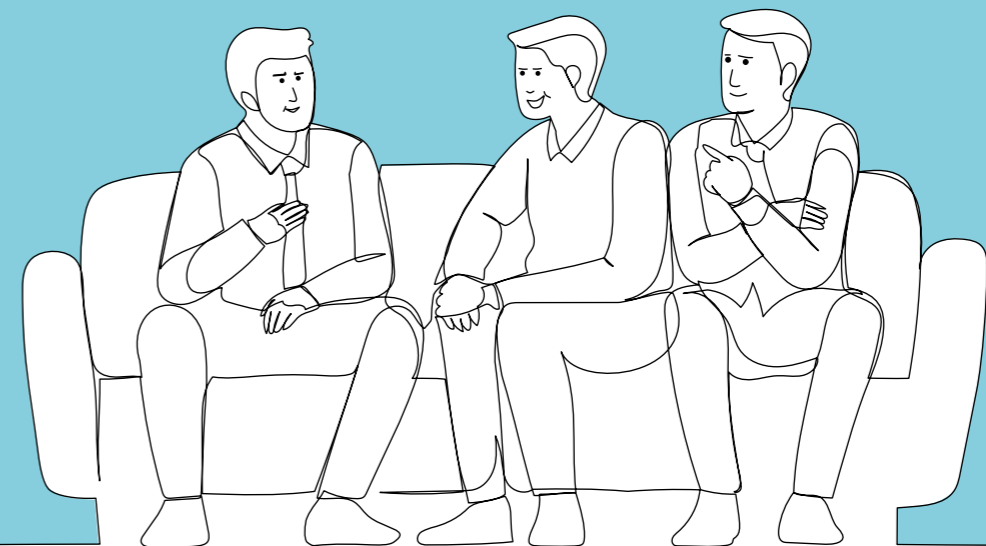
1

Some children come into the care system here because they arrive from other countries, completely on their own, looking for help and safety. They are called unaccompanied asylum seekers. Some children also come into the care system because of human trafficking. Trafficking is where children and young people are tricked, forced or persuaded to leave their homes and are then moved or transported to somewhere else. They are taken advantage of, made to work, or even sold. They suffer abuse and neglect. We believe that those who have been trafficked, or who have arrived here on their own from another country, will need particular support when they leave care. They may need on-going help to deal with trauma or they may be at risk from the people who hurt and abused them. They also may need help to stay in this country, and if this is the case, help is available.



We want to place a duty on Trusts to look at the experiences that trafficked or unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people have had. This will help them understand what support the young people will need when they leave care.

**Do you agree?
Why? or Why not?**



2

The law sets out that Trusts must make sure that young people leaving care are provided with suitable accommodation.

We now want to give some details about what Trusts should look at when deciding whether accommodation is suitable.

We think that the Trust should look at:

- What facilities and services are on offer
- The state of repair the place is in
- How safe it is
- Where it is
- What support is available
- How affordable it is for the young person

We also want to make sure that:

- Trusts listen to what the young person thinks of the accommodation
- they know their rights
- they understand what they are responsible for and how the accommodation will be paid for.



Do you think listing these things is a good idea? Why? or Why not?

Have we included the right things in the list?

Would you add anything?



Let us know what you think by emailing:
adoption@health-ni.gov.uk – before 19th January 2023

Thanks for your help!