

**Ellie Blake
Anna Chaplin
Ernestine Hui
Partrick McAlary
Myrsini Tzioni**

Improving the transition from care into independence



April 2020

May 2022

Apr 2020

- Question allocated
- Start of literature review

Jun 2020

- Six months plan
- Survey creation begins
- Focus group with YP leaving care

Aug 2020

- Ethical approval sought for survey
- Council tax exemption meeting

Oct 2020

- Meeting with CCC service leaders

Jan 2021

- First draft handed in

Mar 2021

- Final draft handed in

May 2020

- First Meeting (Bi-Weekly Check-ins)

Jul 2020

- Met with CCC Homelessness Advisor
- Met with CCC Clinical Coach

Sep 2020

- Interview with YP who left care
- Ethical approval for survey obtained
- Survey distributed via email

Nov 2020

- Met with Clinical Psychologist

Feb 2021

- Feedback obtained

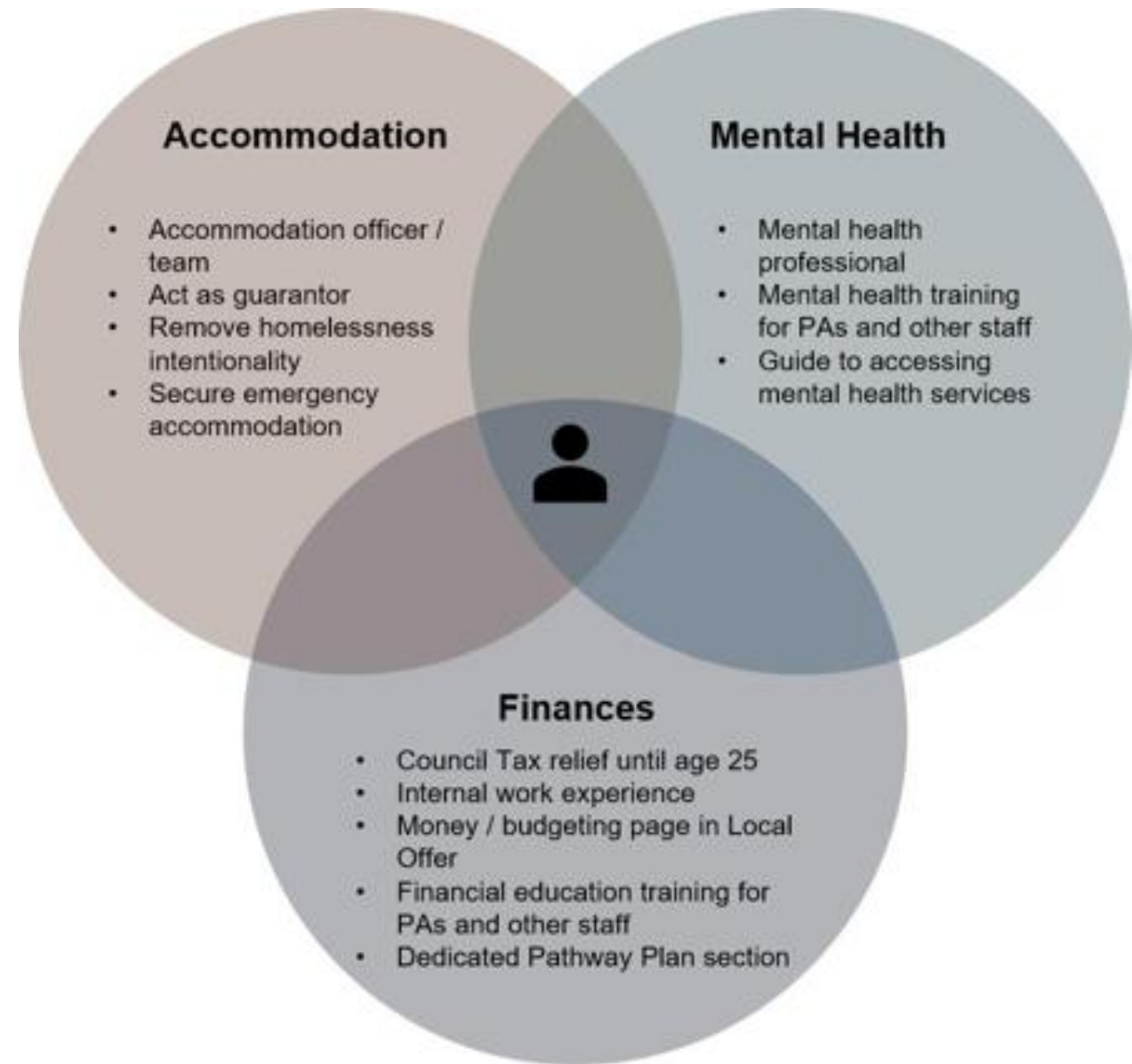
Jan 2022-Apr 2022

- Meetings with senior leaders
- Minor changes made to report



Aims

1. Identify barriers that jeopardised the transition into independence.
2. Solutions that further outcomes for Cambridgeshire's young people, in line with the County's own strategic priorities, the corporate parenting responsibilities.
3. To outline ***specific policy interventions*** that would address the barriers that these young people face as they enter independence and that would support a successful and resilient transition into independence.



Accommodation: Policy Recommendations

- Act as a **rent guarantor** for YP with care experience
- Have a permanent funded **Accommodation Officer/Team**
- Focus on improving the current process by:
 - a) Extending the **Staying Put** scheme from age 21 to 25
 - b) Remove reduction** of allowances for carers when YP join the Staying Put scheme
 - c) More **frequent visits** and rigorous individual assessments of foster placements
 - d) Allowing **priority social housing applications** any time before age 25
 - e) Granting **access** to all housing options and increasing housing allowance costs for YP waiting for asylum



Structure



- On top of their usual responsibilities, these officers have a number of accommodation-related duties:

- Search for suitable accommodation
- Providing information, advice, and guidance on options
- Practical support with moving into and furnishing their new home
- Support during a housing crisis e.g. being at risk of losing a tenancy
- Attending university and finding accommodation for students during the holidays
- Funding the cost of accommodation and the advice on how to fund accommodation
- Housing options for asylum seekers (who may not have access to all the housing options available)
- Advice and help on setting up the Housing Element of Universal Credit or Housing Benefit
- Obtaining a grant from Cambridgeshire Local Assistance scheme to pay for essential basic household furniture and white goods, and food packs during emergencies and times of hardship
- Staying Put scheme
- Moving back to live with family
- Supported lodgings
- Semi-independence
- Social housing
- Private renting
- Obtaining previously looked after YP discounts and savings (when buying personal or household goods)
- Setting up home allowance (leaving care grant)
- Homelessness

Box 1. List of accommodation responsibilities for PAs regarding YP in their care.

Homelessness

- YP with care experience are at **higher risk** of homelessness than their peers
- Rates of homelessness amongst those with care experience has **increased** nationally and in Cambridgeshire

Recommendation:

- Work with District and City councils to *remove intentional homelessness*
- Secure purpose *emergency accommodation*

Households Owed a Homelessness Duty with Care Experienced YP

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
CAMBRIDGE	23	24	38
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE	9	13	/
FENLAND	36	27	39
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	5	20	21
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE	7	10	11
EAST OF ENGLAND	540	710	760
ENGLAND	5720	6960	7100

Source: 'Detailed Local Authority Level Tables: Financial Year 2020-21' [Dataset], GOV.UK [<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>] [Accessed May 2022]



Finances

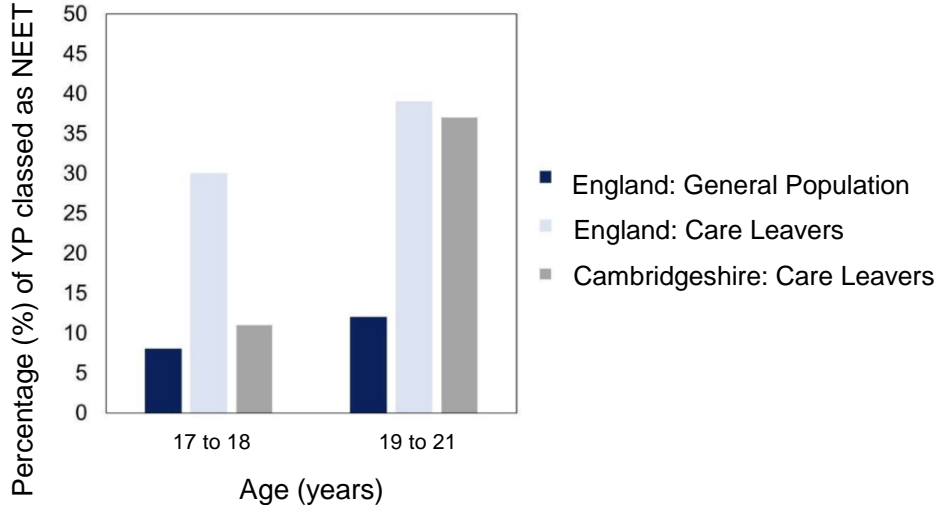
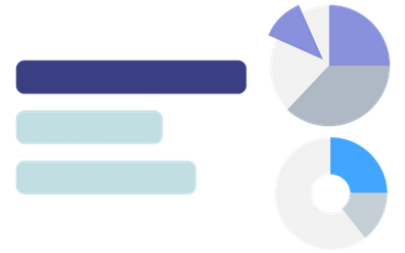


- National Ofsted survey: Money management is a major issue, the **most common reason** for feeling unsafe upon leaving care is **money**,
- Self-reliance at a much younger age than their peers

Recommendations:

- **Council tax support** for YP [already implemented, future possibility of bypassing refunds]
- **Improve financial education** for YP
 - Clear and up-to-date section for money/debt management courses on the CCC website
 - PDF/mobile app clearly laying out available financial benefits
 - Thorough training for support workers

Employability



- **37% aged 19-21 NEET** (Cambridgeshire, 2019)
- Lower attainment in school, lack of skills and information, loss of confidence, hiring behaviour

Recommendation:

- **Develop internal opportunities** to improve employability of the council's YP
 - **Ring-fenced apprenticeships** (standalone or reserved spaces within a wider scheme)
 - **Guaranteed interviews** for those meeting minimum requirements



Mental Health

- Over 25% of YP experience a mental health crisis after leaving care
- Barrier to aspirations of stability and security

Recommendations:

- Create a **clear guide** to mental health resources
- **Improve knowledge** of mental health care internally
 - Comprehensive **training programme**
 - Employment of a clinical **mental health professional**





Thank
You