Preparing young people for independence

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16+Service Camden

- **2 Team Managers**
- **8/3/2 Social Workers/ Senior Practitioners, mediation workers :-Homeless 16 and 17 years olds, UASC 15+ & LAC 16-17**
- **8/1 Personal Advisors/Connexions –Young People Leaving Care aged 18+ to 25 years old**

Next Step Assessment

- Start working through the document at 16 with foster carer or support worker overseen by social worker
- Areas covered in 1-1 weekly sessions:-
- Self Care skills- staying healthy, emotional health
- Budgeting- managing weekly income, paying service charge
- Cooking skills- shop and prepare 7 meals
- Planning a career-education, employment and training

Young People's Pathway DVD

- Key strength is our links with housing pathway providers
- Assessment Centre
- Move Through
- Tenancy

Professional Perspective

- What are the most important factors for young people that will help to prepare them for independence?

- Arrange the 10 cards in order of priority

Care Leavers Perspective

- Financial support-towards education, travel and food
- Housing-affordable accommodation to live in
- Higher education/ vocation courses
- Relationships-Emotional support someone to talk to
- Motivation-focus more on achievement and less on what has gone wrong

- 16+ Care Leavers-Allie Armantrading & Liya Habte

Summary

Tension

- **The adult professional: motivation**: to provide support, guidance and advice;

VS

- **The young person: motivation:** a need to define themselves independently of the authority, at times to disregard advice, make mistakes and develop a sense of agency.
- This is a very difficult stage of development for the Young person: Erikson stage 5: Adolescence, 12 to 18 years: **Main Question: "Who am I and where am I going?" "Identity Crisis"**

Summary

- For YP who are ‘care leavers’ the relationship between young person and local authority is coming to an end, or at the very least will be radically different.
- Challenge: work flexibly, listen to young people, explain the choices and limitations and try to adapt services to meet individuals defined needs where possible.
- This is a negotiated process that may not be linear or straightforward.
- It marks the start of the young person taking control of their life, their choices, and the way in which they want to identify with the organisation.