



Positivity about the future

LB Wandsworth
**Using a team of
specialist workers
to support care
leavers make plans
for the future**
June 2020

More young people in Wandsworth reported feeling positive about their futures than in other local authorities.

Why?

Young people who helped to develop the Your Life Beyond Care survey identified that having and achieving goals was key to their well being. Wandsworth have focused on making young people feel supported and able to make plans for their future.

What difference is it making?

94% of care leavers in Wandsworth agreed they had plans and goals for their future compared to 87% of care leavers elsewhere. 38% felt very positive about their futures compared to 27% in other local authorities. Having specialist workers in the team allows the Personal Advisors to focus on building relationships with young people, knowing they can easily access specialist advice and support.

What did they do?

Young people leaving care in Wandsworth are supported by a multi-disciplinary team based in a separate building – ‘The Hub’. It is centrally positioned with good transport links across the borough.

There are 4 main strands of support which complement the work of personal advisers – the Virtual School, Employment workers, a participation specialist and a housing worker. All these workers are based in The Hub

- **The Virtual School worker** sets a high level of aspiration for young people and has supported 15% of care leavers to enter Higher Education.
- **3 employment workers** – with links to and supported through a specialist employment project Bright Lights.
- **The participation worker** has engaged young people in a range of activities since coming into post and set up different social media apps. 56 care leavers attended their on-line awards event in care leavers week.
- **Housing Manager**- who can offer practical advice with all care leavers in Wandsworth receive a guaranteed offer of social housing.
- **Detached youth worker** to engage with young people who are involved in gang related activity

“I think so far my experience [of leaving care] has been good, all the people who I’ve met have been nothing but helpful and supportive of my goals and aspirations.”
(Care leaver)

“I believe I will be successful, anyone can believe you have potential to be successful”
(Care leaver)