



Trust in leaving care workers

Oldham
**Developing skills
and opportunities to
support relationship
building between
leaving care workers
and care leavers**
June 2021

Oldham has used managed caseloads, trained their leaving care workers (personal advisers) in suicide prevention, as well as developed group activities with workers to enable them to develop trusting relationships with their care leavers.

Why?

To ensure their care leavers feel supported Oldham have given leaving care workers the skills and opportunities to develop relationships with young people.

What difference is it making?

90% of Oldham care leavers trust their workers *all or most of the time*. This is higher than the 78% reported by care leavers nationally

What?

Increasing support for leaving care workers.

- Leaving care workers support 22 young people allowing them to provide time and attention to their young people to ensure their needs are met.
- Following a recent tragic incident specific training was provided on suicide intervention strategies. This has meant that staff are more confident in their work with young people.
- Leaving care workers have presented their work on establishing permanency and emotional well being to children service social work forum. This has helped colleagues recognize the work and impact the leaving care team has.

Increasing support for young people

- Tea time chat have been set up where young people where young people can 'drop into' an online group for a catch up and chat
- A worker has set up a Thai boxing group which 19 young people have attended
- A joint venture with the Youth Involvement Project and Personal Advisors has worked with some harder to engage young people with 19 young people attend a Thai boxing group, 12 young women going on a spa day and a group walking up Snowdon, raising over £1,300 to support other activities.
- .These sessions have given young people a real sense of achievement and helped workers to build stronger relationships with their young people.

“Feels like we’re part of something normal.. and it’s the social time I don’t get otherwise” (Young person)



“Young people are waiting all week for the sessions, and on the day my phone does not stop ringing to make sure I can take them” (Leaving care worker)

**Bright
Spot of
practice**

OLDHAM Trust in workers

Why? To ensure that care leavers have trusting relationships with their workers Oldham have developed a range of opportunities for leaving care workers to work creatively with young people

What?

- Case load levels (22) that allow workers to develop relationships.
- Training for workers to tackle difficult issues such as suicide.
- Recognizing the work of the leaving care service
- Providing opportunities for workers to set up different ways to engage with young people - e.g. Thai boxing, spa days and mountain walking

Impact: 90 % of care leavers in Oldham trust their workers all or most of the time, that is higher than the 78% of care leavers who report this nationally.

www.coramvoice.org.uk/brightspots

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