

Bright Spot of practice

Relationship with Personal Advisers

North Yorkshire Always here: **Keeping** in touch with your **PA** after your 25th birthday March 2022

Always Here is an offer to be there for care leavers who want to stay in touch regardless of age.

This is a practice example from the Bright Spots Programme www.coramvoice.org.uk/brightspots

Why?

In North Yorkshire more care leavers found it easier to get in touch with their leaving care worker, and trusted them than care leavers in other authorities.

North Yorkshire wanted to extend this support beyond the young person's 25th birthday.

What difference is it making?

55 young people have used this service in the first 6 months with 22 wanting advice and 11 wanting to share achievements

What?

- North Yorkshire recognized that some care leavers wanted to keep in touch with their workers after 25; to let them know what's happening in their lives.— their successes at work or university or to share major life events – such as having a child, getting married etc.
- Others wanted a bit of support or a listening ear when things were difficult.
- All care leavers are offered the option to approach the service at any age.
- Always Here is part of the Local Offer and it was publicised on social media to alert young people who were closed to the service.
- It is discussed with young people who are currently receiving a service and they are given a leaflet explaining the offer.
- Young people can contact their previous worker, a manager or the duty number to request a service.
- Workers record approaches from young people and the work they are doing on the young person's record.
- Young people are happy there is a formal arrangement so they can ask for help and workers feel their work is being recorded and acknowledged.

Always Here

- No more age limit
- You can always come to us for Information, Advice and Guidance and we'll help if we can.
- It will feel different no more pathway plans (but we can help you plan)
- We won't chase you but we will be here if you need us
- We love hearing how you're getting on so call us with good news too!!



She is more than a leaving care worker she is a dear friend.