



## Practical support & opportunities

Hertfordshire County Council

### **MENU OF OPPORTUNITIES**

November 2022

Hertfordshire created a series of opportunities for young people to get involved in designing and implementing changes to the services that the council offered their care leavers.

# HERTFORDSHIRE

## Menu of opportunities

**Why?** As part of the New Belongings programme Hertfordshire wanted to identify opportunities for care leavers to get involved and improve leaving care support.

### What?

- Hertfordshire developed a 'menu of opportunities' setting out the projects that care leavers could get involved in.
- The menu set out areas that the authority wanted to improve, what young people could help with, how many young people could be involved and the time commitment involved.
- Young people could choose to get involved in the issues that interested them.
- The menu was shared with young people through social media.

### Impact:

- A wide range of young people were able to join in projects they were interested in.

## New Belongings: Opportunities for Care Leavers to get involved

Practice example

Care Leavers, Hertfordshire County Council and Partner Agencies Joint Plan 2021

There's a varied range of opportunities for Care Leavers to get involved with and help shape future services. The only qualification you need is your lived experience of being a care leaver. Everybody's experience is different, and we want to engage with as many Care Leavers as possible.

### You Said, We Will

As part of our on-going commitment to improve outcomes for care leavers, Hertfordshire County Council are working with Coram Voice and the University of Oxford on New Belongings, a programme which aims to improve the outcomes for care leavers by identifying and promoting actions based on what care leavers say the priorities are.

We can pay High Street vouchers and will also pay for any travel expenses incurred. Volunteering looks great on your CV, and applications for university etc.

(Whilst Covid restrictions are in place, meetings and project work will be online instead of face to face).

Between May and September 2020 all care leavers in Hertfordshire were asked to participate in an online survey to find out how they felt about their lives. The survey identified areas working well and areas needing improvement.



Having worked hard to gather the views of Care Leavers, Hertfordshire County Council (Children's plan, based on a survey, and the changes...

Here are the projects for you to get involved in. You can choose to get involved in as many as you like or select ones because of your own interests or the time you have available.

	What we plan to do:	What we want you to do	Possible Time Commitment
4	Care Leavers' Website The dedicated website for Care Leavers is called the "offer" and needs to reflect the information that Care Leavers want in a format they want and understand.	You will be invited to attend meetings and give your views and contribute ideas on the design and content of the website. You do not need any experiences in web design just a willingness to tell us what you think.	4 meetings over 6 months. Each meeting will usually last 2 hours.
10	Care Leavers' Covenant We are going to ensure commitments are made to Care Leavers that extend beyond those provided by the County Council - this may be from local charities or local business.	You will be invited to attend meetings to progress the Care Leaver Covenant where public, private and voluntary sector organisations pledge support, including apprenticeships work experience, free or discounted goods and services to Care Leavers.	This area is currently in development – time commitment to be confirmed.
5	Promoting Positive Stories Care leavers need to hear more from other care leavers who have succeeded – there should be success stories on websites and social media.	You will work within a small team promoting good news stories of care leavers.	4 meetings throughout the year.