

Care Leaver Annual Survey Analysis Report - A Review of 2017 - 2018

Context

The key purpose of the Children and Young People in Care Transitions Service is to improve the life chances and achieve the best possible outcomes for young people who are aged 14 years and above. The service provides a wide range of services and opportunities to assist young people with their transition into adult life. Young people within the service complete an annual leaving care survey with the aim of evaluating the quality and impact of current service provision. The data was collated using a SurveyMonkey questionnaire Form. The information will feed into a 12-month action plan which will inform the priorities of the service and actions around any short falls.

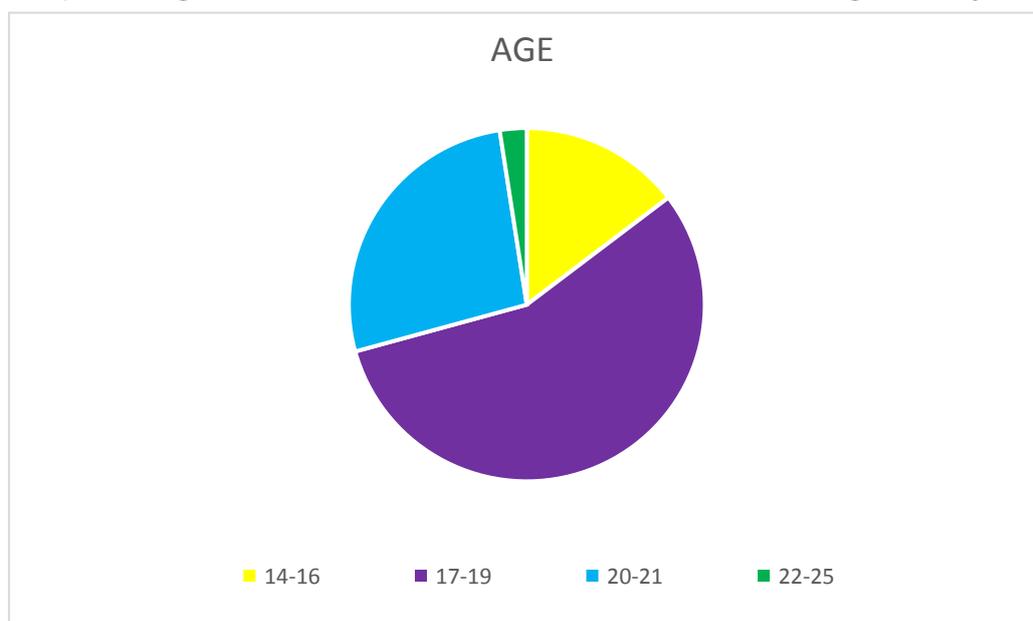
Findings and Summary

The number of young people who completed the survey totalled 41. There was a reduction in number of recipients by 32 compared to the figure last year which totalled 73 young people.

Age

The main cohort that responded to the survey was aged between 17 – 19 years. The same age group recorded last year. Of the 41 recipients 56.10% were in this age range.

14.63% were in the 14 – 16 age group, which equated to six young people responding out of 41. Of this number all six were aged 16 years.



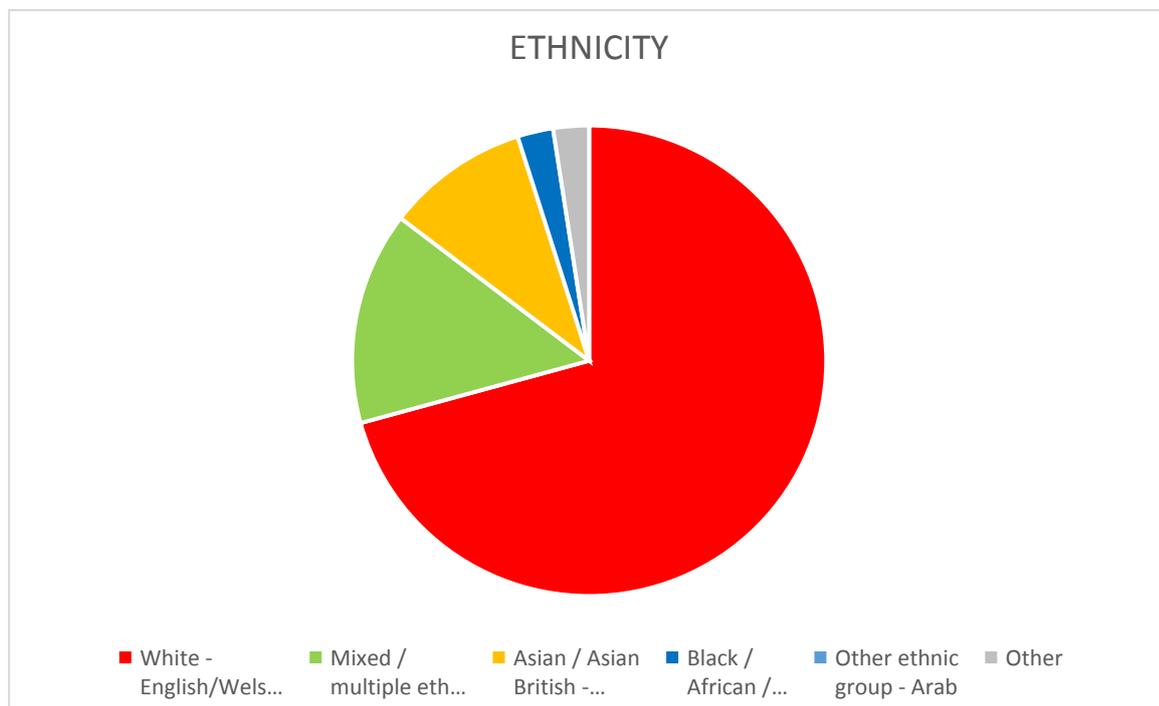
The young people aged between 22-25 only one person responded. It is envisaged that this number will increase next year in line with the age range increasing up to 25 years. The statistics are likely to reflect the reduced contact that our Young Person Advisors have with the upper age range of young people.

Gender

Of the 41 young people who responded, 65.85 % were males and 34.15 % females resulting in almost 50 % difference.

Ethnicity

Of the 41 recipients, 29 were White European which equated to 70.73%.



Of that figure six were White & Black Caribbean/African and four young people were of Asian British ethnicity.

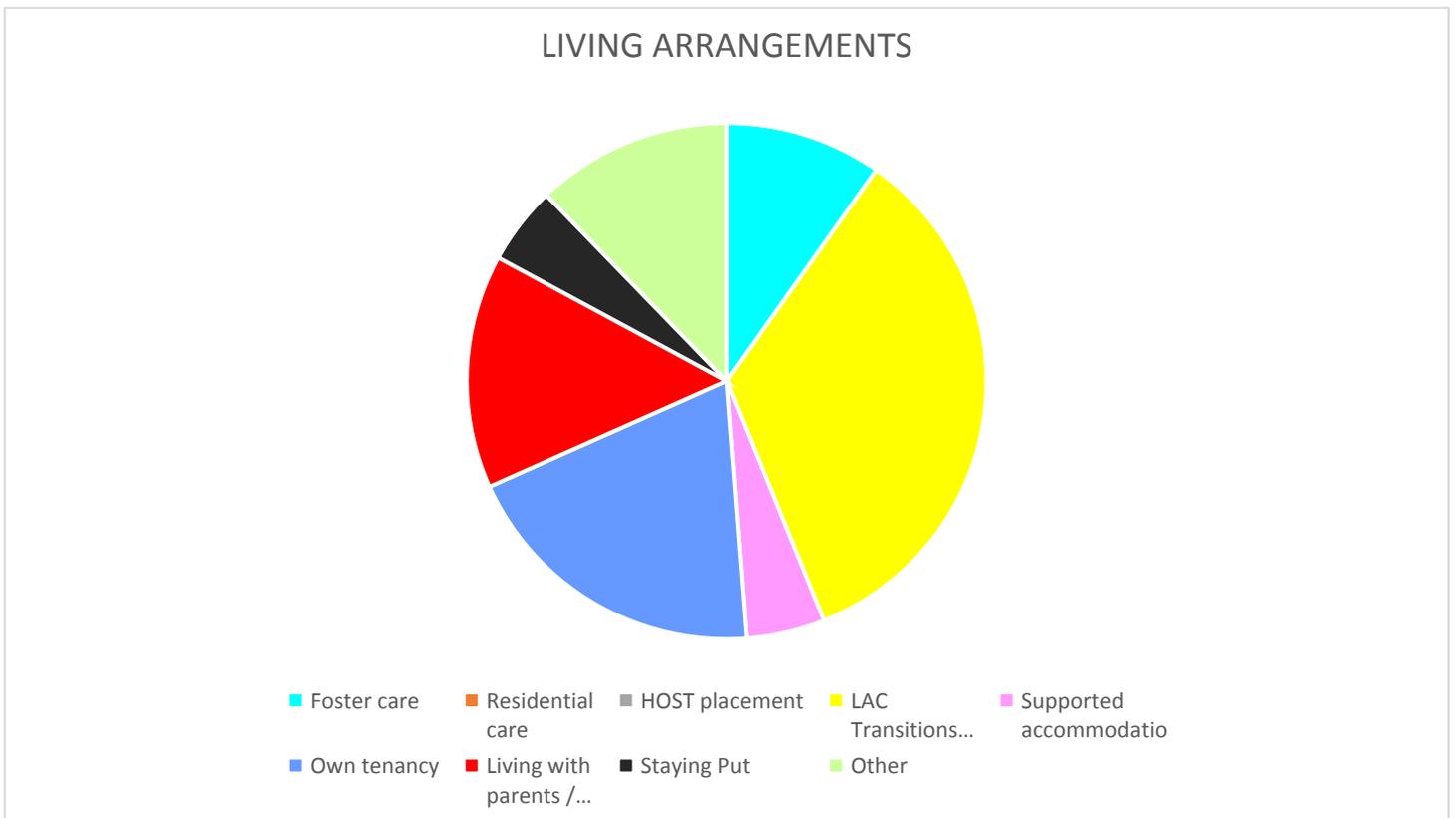
Care Leaver Status

Out of 41 recipients 40 young people answered the question. 65 % were in the category of over 18 – Former Relevant young people. 12.50 % were under 18 and had left care, hence were Relevant and the second highest figure were under 18 and currently in care – Eligible and equated to 22.50% of the Children and Young People in Care population.

The involvement of Young Persons Advisors at 16 plus would have a bearing as the role allows for more time to be spent with young people. An older age group would also be more likely to complete the survey.

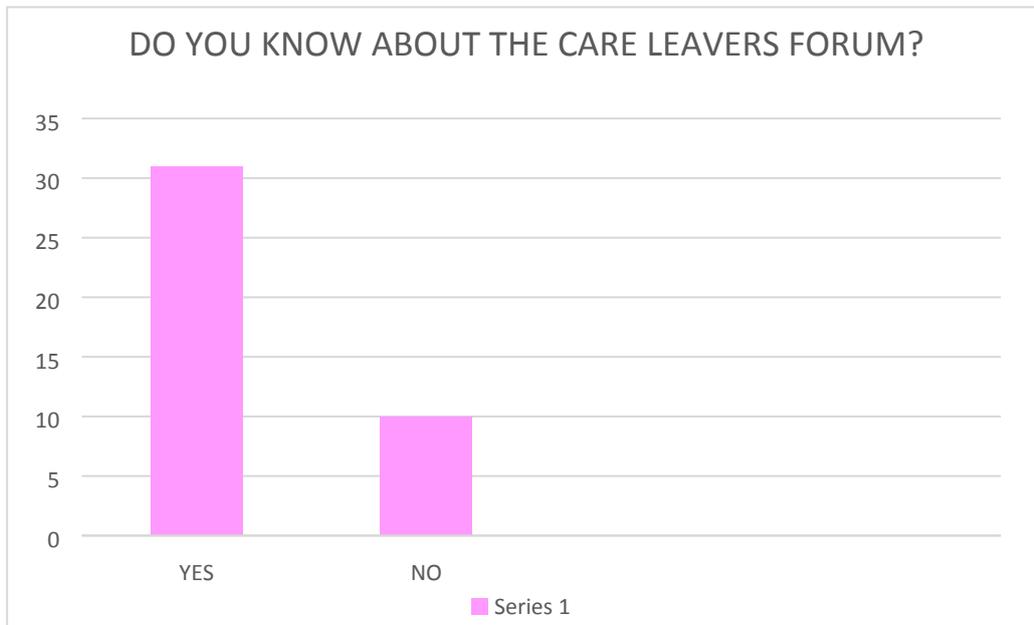
Living Arrangements

Of the 41 cohort who responded 9.76% young people were in a foster care placement. There was no response from young people residing in residential care or HOST placements. The highest percentage came from Children and Young People in Care Transitions flats 34.15% and next highest figure was young people with their own tenancy which equated to 19.51%. Living with parents and relatives 14.63%. Staying Put and Supported Lodgings equated to the same percentage – 4.88% which may be related to young people feeling more settled, with good support networks, resulting in less dependency on the service.



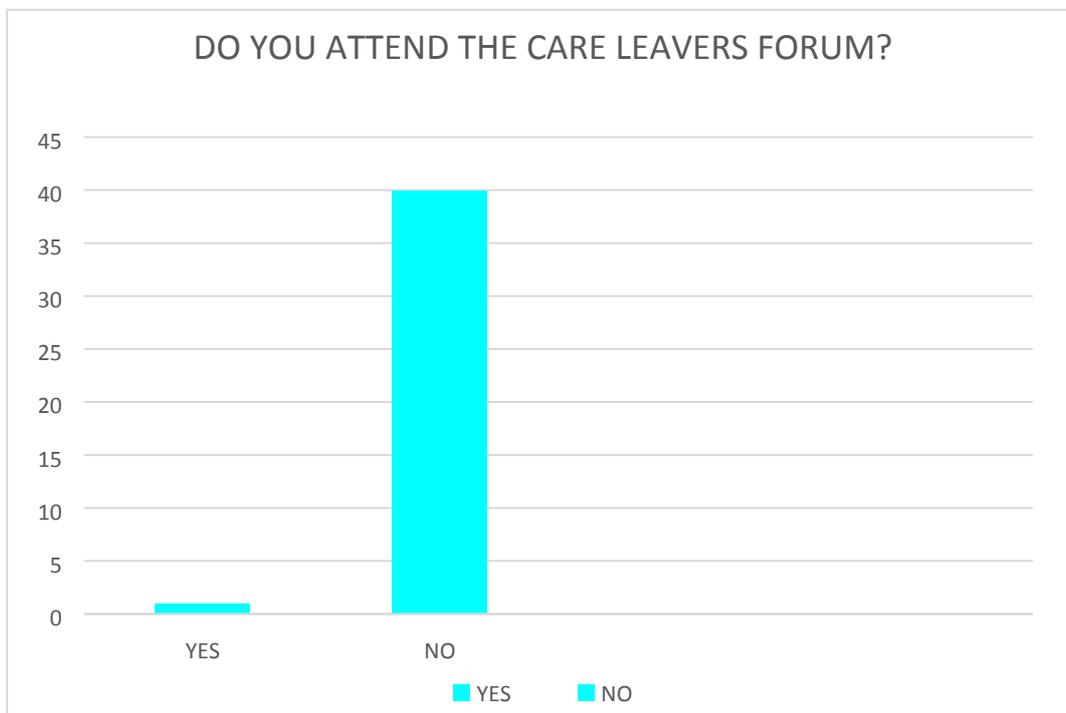
Do you know about the Care Leavers' Forum?

Of the 41 recipients 75.61% answered yes – a total of 24.39 % did not know. The comparison to last year was that 64% of young people reported that they were aware of the Care Leavers' Forum.



Do you attend the Care Leavers' Forum?

Of the 41 participants 97.56% reported that they did not attend and 2.44% which equated to one young person attended. 40 young people did not wish to attend. The person who attended reported that they found the forum valuable.



If you are not attending, why not?

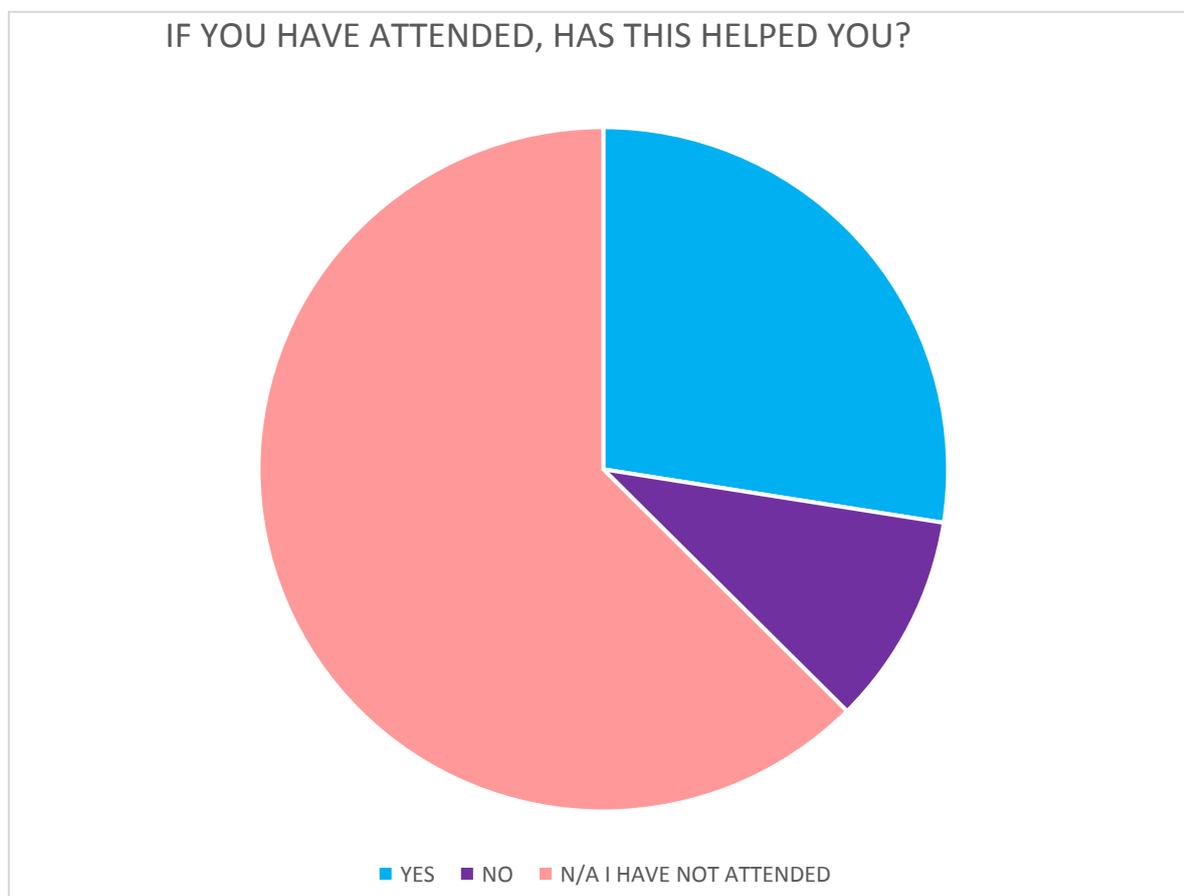
Of the 41 participants who answered the question 2.63% stated that they were unsure of the aim and purpose of the Forum. 76.32 % stated that they do not want to attend. 10.53% resided out of city and the same percentage was reported to be 'Other'.

Do you know about the Drop-in Service on Friday at The WAY?

Of the 41 recipients 85.37% responded yes which equates to 35 young people. A total of 14.63% did not know about the service which totalled six in the cohort.

If you have attended has this helped you?

Of the 40 young people who responded 27.50% stated yes 10% reported no and 62.50% stated that the questions were not applicable due to not having attended. The poor attendance of young people at The WAY cannot be overlooked and needs to be given due consideration; over 50% of the recipients are choosing not to utilise provision provided by the WAY. A targeted questionnaire may be of some merit in identifying what provision would be most effective and of greater benefit.

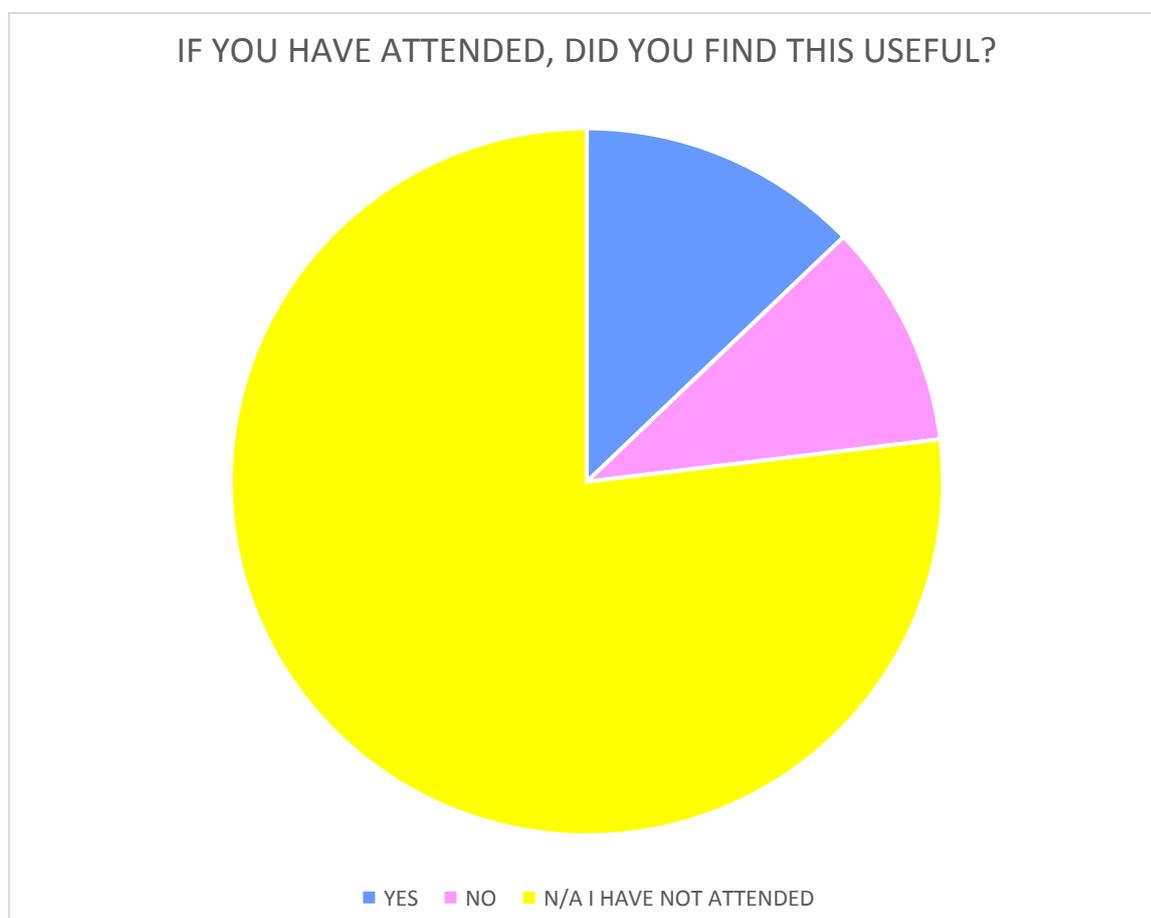


Do you know about the Care Leavers' INDI Group?

41 out of 41 answered the question. 70.73% reported yes. 29.27 % stated that they had not known about the INDI Group.

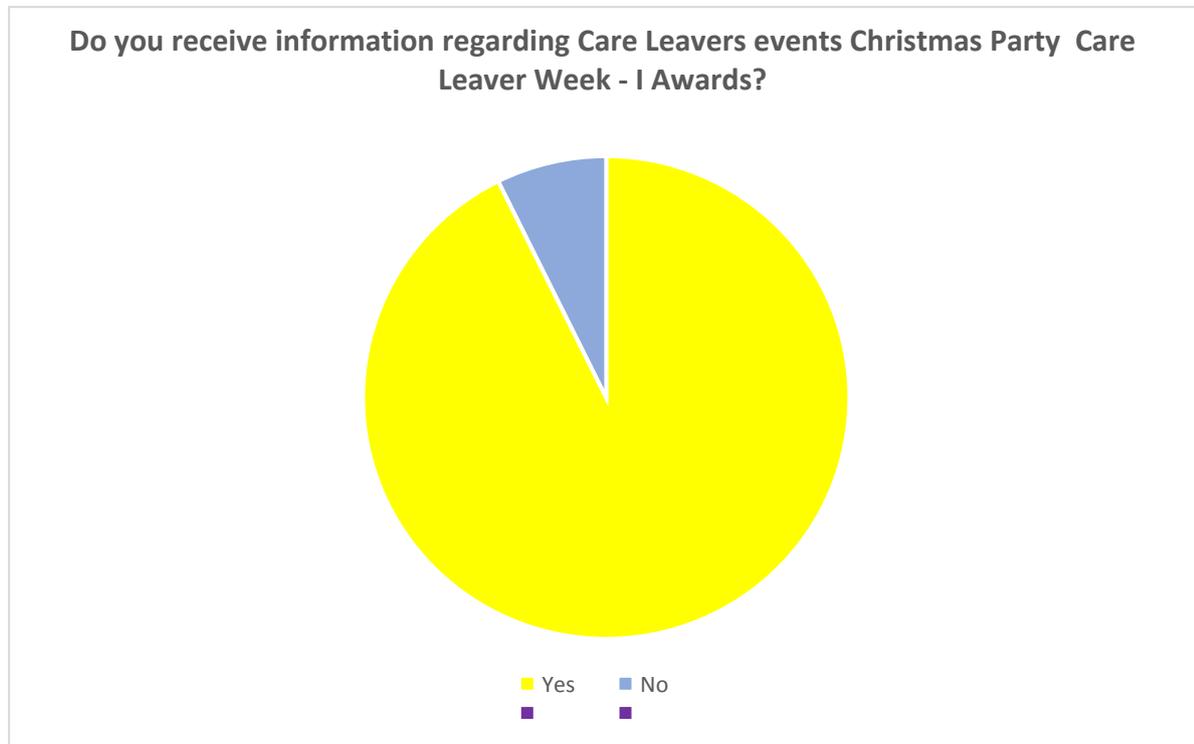
If you have attended, do you find this useful?

Of the 41 recipients 39 responded 12.82% stated that they had found the group useful 10.26 % reported that they had not found the group useful and 76.92% reported that they had not attended. A targeted survey may be required to identify why a larger proportion of young people are not utilising the group. Consideration needs to be given to whether there is a need to develop alternative Groups to meet the varied needs of Children and Young People in Care Transitions Service.



Do you receive information regarding Care Leavers' events Christmas Party Care Leaver Week - I Awards?

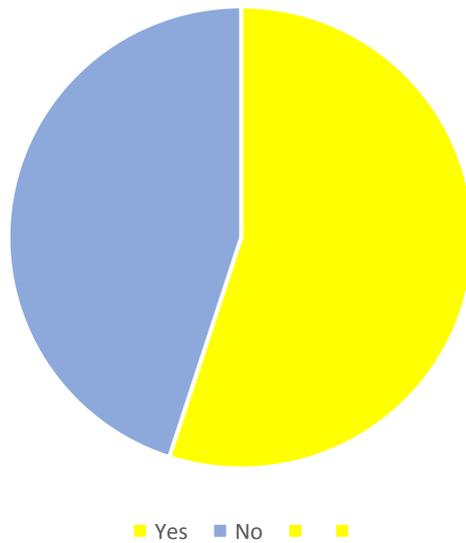
Out of 41 recipients 38 answered the question. 89.47 % responded yes and 10.53 per cent reported no. The expectation should have been 100% response. This result may relate to the recent turnover in staff, there needs to be assurances and clear expectations that all staff ensure that young people are made aware of important and significant events, not as an isolated conversation but as a regular topic of discussion. The monthly newsletter should highlight and promote up and coming events.



Do you know about our Facebook page Lacey Childs?

Out of 41 recipients 40 answered the question of this figure 55% reported yes and 45% no. The result has shown a down turn from last year which recorded 63% of young people knew of the Facebook page Lacey Childs.

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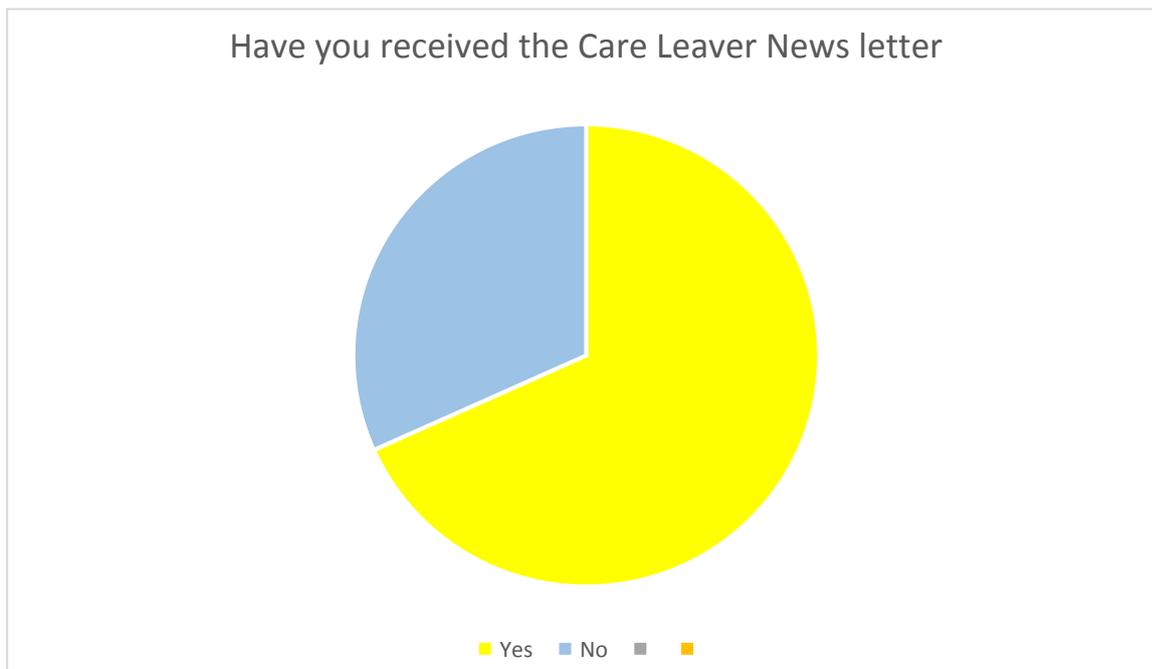


Do you use it?

Of the 41 cohort 78.05% reported that they did not use it and 19.51% recorded that they did.

Have you received the Care Leaver Newsletter?

Out of 41 respondents 41 answered the question of this number 68.29% reported no and 31.71% yes. Half of the young people who responded to our survey do not receive the newsletter the figure is up by 1% from the previous year. The newsletter clearly needs to be relaunched and widely promoted.



Do you find the newsletter useful?

Out of 41 recipients 36 answered the question 22.22% reported yes and 16.67% no. There needs to be more consistency and greater efforts made to ensure all young people receive the care leavers newsletter.

Any suggestions around how to make the newsletter better?

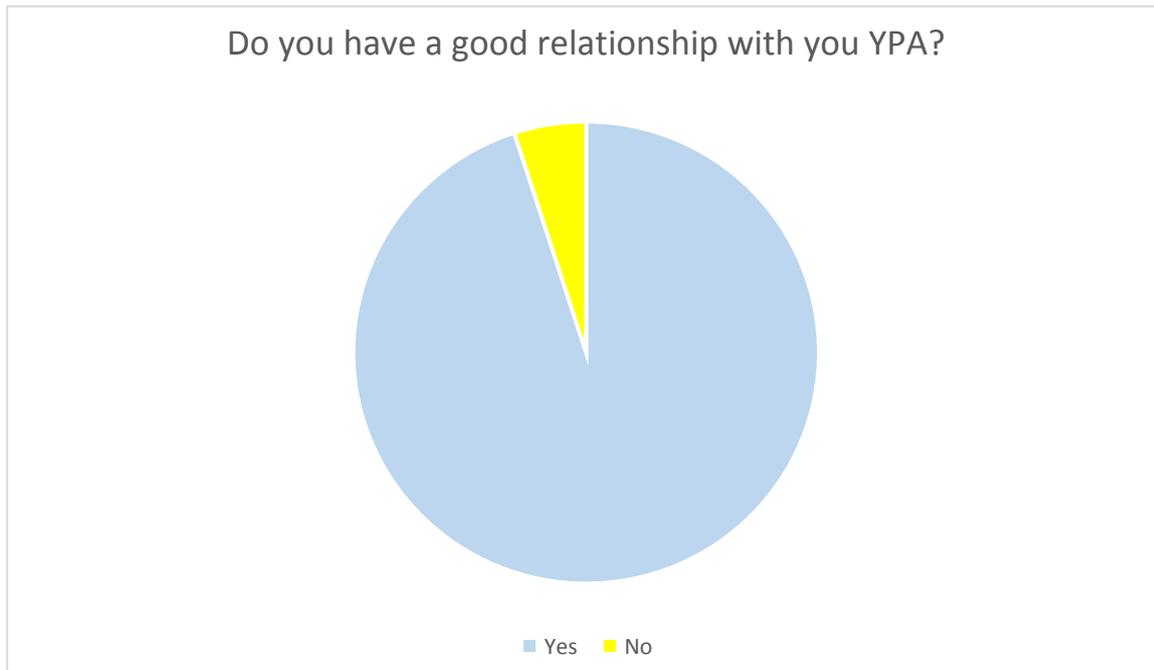
Of the 31 recipients five young people answered, which is not surprising given the proportion of young people who are in receipt of the newsletter.

Do you have a good relationship with your social worker?

Out of 41 recipients 24 answered the question 17 did not to respond. 66.67% answered yes and 33.33% no. The figure reflects a decrease from last year where it was 81% who reported yes. There has been a recent period of instability within the staffing group; involving the recruitment of agency staff this situation may have a bearing on the response. The team will have a full complement of permanent workers from October 2018 which will promote best practice.

Do you have a good relationship with your Young Person’s Advisor (YPA)?

Out of 41 recipients 40 young people answered the question. 95% recorded yes and 5% no. The figures show an increase from last year which was 78%. An excellent result and one to be proud of. We need to maintain this standard and see the figure increase further. The service has enjoyed a stable Young Person's Advisor staffing group who are able to provide a consistent level of support.



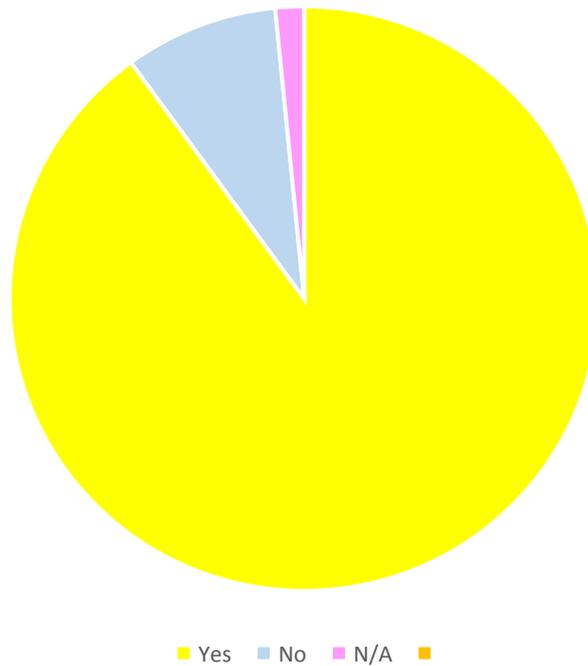
Are you making decisions for yourself regarding your future?

Of the 41 Cohort 40 young people answered the question. 97.56% answered yes and 2.44% replied no

Do you feel you left foster / residential care when you were ready?

Of the 41 respondents, 40 young people answered the question 80% reported yes. 7.50 % no and 12.50% not applicable remained in care. The figure is a down turn from last year which was 84 %.

Do you feel you left foster / Residential care when you were ready?



Are you being supported; did you feel prepared for leaving care?

Of the 41 participants – 39 responded to this question. 79.49 % reported yes. 5.13% responded No. 15.38% were still in care.

Does your accommodation meet your needs?

Out of 41 recipients – 39 young people answered the question of this number 93.31 % replied yes and 7.69 % reported no.

Are you in education, employment or training (EET)?

Out of a 41 cohort – 40 responded, of this number 58.54% reported yes and 41.46% answered no.

If you are not in EET, are you getting the right support to get into education, employment or training?

Of the 41 recipients 35 young people answered of this number 45.71% responded yes and 54.29 % reported N/A. The numbers of participants who met the criteria were low and therefore the accuracy of the data will be affected.

Do you feel that you know your leaving care entitlements?

Of the 41 recipients 40 answered the question of this number 85% reported yes equating to 34 young people and six young people reported no. The expectation is that all young people should know their entitlements.

Do you feel adequately supported with money and budgeting?

Of the 41 recipients 40 answered of this number 90% responded yes and 10% no. The statistics are reflective of the same figure last year.

Can you identify all the things the Children and Young People in Care Transitions Service does well?

Of the 41 recipients 39 young people answered the question. The highest statistics 53.85% related to the area of the service being supportive. and equated to 21 young people. There was a significant drop in other areas with the next figure being 12.82% listening and progressing young people's views on improving the service. Reliability was the third highest score 7.69%. General advice and guidance and support with health concerns and EET totalling 5.13%. There were some areas which scored 2.56%. The lower scoring areas need to be given some attention they included: engaging young people in events and activities, Problem solving, Preparation for independence (Accommodation)

Rating of Leaving Care Service overall?

Of the 41 participants 37 responded to the question with a rating of 83%

Do you wish to remain open post 25?

72.22% reported yes and 27.78% no which is a good outcome and a testament to the work currently being undertaken in the team. The statistics are an improvement on last year which rated 63%.

The total of participants in the survey was overall disappointing and will impact on the quality of data. The statistics will only capture a percentage of young people currently open to the team the analysis of data will be limited to the cohort who participated within the survey.

Areas for Improvement

- Social Workers, Young Person's Advisors, Foster Carers and Residential Staff need to understand the relevance of young people participating in the survey to support the continuous efforts made to improve service delivery.
- Targeted efforts need to be made to ascertain feedback from young people residing in residential and Host Placements which recorded naught response in both these areas.

The question relating to the Leaving Care Forum indicated that a high proportion of young people were unclear about the purpose of the forum. 24.39% did not know about the care leaver forum 97.06% of young people who knew about the forum did not attend. Of that

number 2.63% stated they were unsure of what the forum was about. 10.53% stated they lived out of city and 10.53% reported other reasons.

- The newsletter needs to be improved relaunched and available to all.
- 62.50% of young people do not attend the Drop- In provision at The Way on Friday afternoons.

Employment and Education

- The percentage of fulltime apprenticeships and employment was below 12% and full- time employment 8 %. Ongoing efforts will continue to be made to improve this area. Working in partnership with voluntary sector and charities. The guaranteed place on the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme needs to be actively promoted and young people encouraged to attend. Participation on the NCS need to become a norm rather than a rarity.
- Full time and part time training equated to less than 10 %. There was no full time or part time work experience or full or part time voluntary work, which needs to be developed and built upon.

Strengths

Children and Young People in Care Transitions service:

- 75.61% of young people knew about the care leaver forum compared to 64% last year.
- 95% of Care Leavers reported that they have a good relationship with their Young Person's Advisors. Improvement on last year from 78%
- 97.56% of the young people reported that they are making decisions for themselves regarding their future. Upward trend from last year from 92%
- 96.77% of young people reported that they are getting the right help. Upward trend from last year from 93%
- 93.31% of young people reported that their accommodation is meeting their needs
- 100/% of young people reported that they felt safe in their accommodation. Upward trend from 90% last year.
- 90% of young people reported that they feel adequately supported with money and budgeting
- 100% of young people feel supported with health and wellbeing. Upward trend from 96% last year.

- 83% rated the care leaving service was good.
- 72.22% reported that they would wish to remain open to the Children and Young People in Care Transitions. Upward trend from last year from 63%

CONCLUSION

The Children and Young People in Care Transitions Service are continuing to improve the standard and quality of service provision as outlined in the Strengths. The areas of improvement need to inform the Action Plan to ensure that the provision available remains progressive and fit for purpose. The annual survey is crucial to the overall effectiveness of the service, therefore social workers, young person's advisors including foster carers and residential staff need to be proactive in encouraging all young people to complete the survey.

The participation rate was hugely disappointing; sustained and rigorous efforts need to be made by workers and Team Managers to ensure we have at least 75% of young people within the service completing the survey. Managers will be expected to monitor the completion of the annual survey in their Units to ensure we have a significant upturn in numbers of participants.

The attendance within the Indi Group was also low and an area which needed to be given some focus and attention, to develop and widen the cohort of young people currently attending. The Drop-In service provided at the WAY also revealed a low turnout with 62.50% of young people stating that they had known about the provision but had chosen not to attend. The sessions provide an opportunity for young people to have consultations with a young person's advisor, Children and Young Persons nurse, and a Housing advisor. There needs to be some exploration around why the provision is not utilised more readily and whether an alternative venue would prove to be more effective.

The question relating to the Care Leavers Forum revealed 97.56% of young people did not attend. The medium needs to be promoted and information made available to young people around how the forum could influence and shape service provision.

The question relating to do you feel supported with Health and Wellbeing prompted a 100% score. The question relating to Listening and progressing young people's views scored 12.82% which is low and could correlate with the lack of interest shown in the Care Leavers Forum. It is essential that the overarching and consistent message given is that the views of the

young person do count and can influence how the service is delivered and what type of support is available.

There appears to be an inconsistent amount of young people who receive newsletters. The newsletter needs to be improved relaunched and available to all. There needs to be more consistency and greater efforts made to ensure all young people receive the newsletter. The survey revealed that a proportionate amount of young people did not know their entitlements. The newsletter could provide an additional forum to share information around activities and up and coming events including help and support available.

The question of what you rate the service overall scored a rating of 83% and the response to do you wish to remain open to the service post 25 scored 72.22% which is very positive and testament to the hard work and commitment of workers and managers within the service.