

Site

Leeds Youth Justice Service

Name of project / initiative

Children Looked After diversion initiative

Overview

This is a multi-layered initiative, unique to Leeds YOS, designed to help divert children looked after and care leavers from the criminal justice system. It comprises:

- a full time Child Looked After and Care Leaver Specialist, with lived experience of care and the criminal justice system;
- a Youth Justice worker seconded to Leeds Virtual School (the body which – among other things – oversees the education of children looked after, in the Leeds area);
- a team of peer mentors (the CARE group); and
- a multi-disciplinary Reducing Offending by Children Looked After (ROCLA) panel.

Longevity

Since 2016

Benefits

Helps to divert young people with experience of the care system from crime and the criminal justice system.

Uniqueness

The full time Child Looked After and Care Leaver specialist, CARE group and ROCLA panel are unique to Leeds and add significant value to the diversionary programme.

Applicability

It could be rolled out across the country.

Requirements

The comprehensive approach taken here does have resource implications, including the need for a specialist lead, at least to set up and embed the approach.

For more information:

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