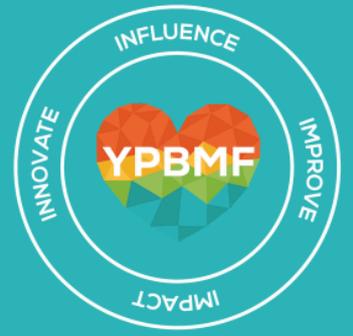




NATIONAL LEAVING CARE BENCHMARKING FORUM



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Events

9 hybrid events for leaving care professionals & care experienced young people. Member Local Authorities have access to in person & online places at:

- 3 x two-day Leaving Care Managers events including DfE & Ofsted Updates, Policy Updates, hearing from care experienced young people & LAs sharing good practice
- 3 x themed Practitioner Events aimed at PAs, Social Workers & Participation Workers
- 3 x Young People's Benchmarking Forum Events for care experienced young people (& supporting staff) which focus on networking, consulting around key topics & celebrating care experienced young people

All sessions are recorded & available on the NLCBF Members website to watch/listen back.

Leaving Care Resources: Members Only

- Ofsted Mapping: Leaving care judgement
- Local Offer Toolkit Supporting Qualifying Young People Guide
- Launching in 2026 – Online PA Induction Materials

Networks/Community of Practice

NLCBF runs 4 regular online networks for leaving care professionals with specialist roles or interest. They focus on sharing good practice & updates, offering a safe place for peer problem solving:

- Education, Training & Employment Network
- Participation Network, for Participation leads
- Mental Health & Care Leavers Community of Practice
- Care Experienced Apprentice Network – for apprentices & those supporting them

**87% of
English LAs
are members
of NLCBF**

Workshops

Each year NLCBF offers:

- A Local Offer Development Workshop
- 2 x Pathway Planning workshops
- Annual online Student Finance workshops
- Additional online workshops, e.g. Impact of Illegal Immigration Bill, Transitional Safeguarding

Regional Work

The NLCBF team works closely with Regional Leaving Care Managers groups & those developing regional offers for care leavers.

Young People's Benchmarking Forum (YPBMF)

YPBMF is at the heart of NLCBF & ensures that the voices & priorities of care experienced young people shape our work. There are opportunities for care experienced young people to:

- Attend 3 x YPBMF events each year (see 'Events' above)
- Become Champions and Legends & get involved with events, workshops, consultations & influence work
- Keep in touch via our bi-monthly YPBMF newsletter
- Be part of the Care Experienced Apprentice Network

97% leaving care managers said NLCBF membership had benefited care experienced young people in their area.

(NLCBF Membership Survey, 2024)

Members Website – Updates, Networking & Resources

Each Local Authority can register up to 40 staff members on the website. Everyone registered:

- Will receive all NLCBF events & opportunities by email
- Will receive regular leaving care policy and research updates by email
- Can access contact information for other member leaving care teams
- Can use the 'Enquiries' page to find out how other LAs are addressing particular issues
- Can access 100s of leaving care resources on a wide range of topics

Specialist Leaving Care Support

The NLCBF team offer specialist support including:

- 1-1 discussions with an NLCBF Practice Lead - previously a leaving care manager
- Coproduction advice & Support from the NLCBF Coproduction & Engagement Lead & care experienced sessional workers
- Support around funding bids & development with the NLCBF Manager

Ofsted, DfE & National Influence

NLCBF are seen as a 'go-to' organisation in the leaving care sector and YPBMF representatives regularly share key messages and asks from care experienced young people. NLCBF works closely with:

- Ofsted – NLCBF are members of Ofsted's Leaving Care Consultative Forum & National Forum. NLCBF commissioned mapping of 75 Ofsted care leaver judgements highlighting good practice by theme - only available to members
- DfE's Leaving Care Policy Team & Mark Riddell, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers – meeting them regularly & with a DfE session at each Managers' Event
- Department of Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government around work to reduce homelessness
- Local Government Association – raising key issues around supporting care leavers
- HMPPS – NLCBF advises on the development of their support for people with care experience
- Children in Care and Care Leavers Alliance, a group of 30+ charities active in this sector, with NLCBF chairing Care Leavers Week subgroup

“Being a member of the Forum gives me confidence as a manager to share good practice and understand the national picture rather than just looking inwardly at local practice.”

Leaving Care Manager, Members Survey, Nov 2024

“My favourite thing was listening to other people’s ideas, meeting other care experienced young people, and socialising with everyone.”

Care experienced young person, YPBMF Event, Nov 24

“For me as a PA it means we are part of something bigger and I benefit from ideas and networking events.”

Personal Adviser, Members Survey Nov 2024

“This is a perfect opportunity for young people to network and understand their basic rights or to see what other local authorities are doing and finding a way to implement it in their local authority.”

YPBMF Champion, 2024

“Through listening to the voice of young people at events we have changed things in our area, e.g. prison project after listening to a young person speak about his time in custody.”

Leaving Care Manager, Members Survey, Nov 2024

“Every Local Authority I visit, I’ll be saying to them – I think you should join - & I’m hoping that they’ll take my advice & they’ll see huge value in joining the Forum.”

Mark Riddell, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, 2023