

# Greater Manchester Care Leaver Guarantee

**Breaking Barriers and Building Opportunities to create a  
fairer future for Greater Manchester Care Leavers**

NCASC Conference November 2022



# Introduction - Panel Members

- ▶ Paul Marshall - Manchester City Council, Developing the Guarantee
- ▶ Charlie Norman, MSV Housing Group, Greater Manchester House Project Collaboration
- ▶ Emma Lewis-Kalubowila - Greater Manchester Higher, Care Leaver & Higher Education
- ▶ John Duncan - GMCA, Greater Manchester Digital Inclusion Programme

# GM Care Leaver Guarantee

Mayor of Greater Manchester launched the GM Care Leaver Guarantee at an event in November 2019. Partners made a commitment to deliver against 5 key themes so that care leavers could;

1. Be better prepared and supported to live independently
2. Have improved access to education, employment and training
3. Experience stability in their lives and feel safe and secure
4. Receive improved access to health support
5. Achieve financial stability

# Live Offer



Care Leaver Trust Board and Delivery Group well established and focused on achieving actions set out in the Care Leaver Delivery Plan



TfGM Our Pass Scheme offer free bus travel to Care Leavers aged 18-21. Approx. 600 active passes in March 2022.



Greater Manchester Higher - Pre-Entry Support and Advice, Finance, Accommodation and Pastoral Support



Prince's Trust - Skills and Pre-Employment Support Programmes



National House Project schemes in 8/10 LAs. Established for a 3 year programme to work with up to 60 young people each year. . Bolton at Home piloting six properties for care leavers with additional support.



Greater Manchester Housing Providers offer tenancy support inc. benefit advice and paying rent



GM Local Offer provides Council Tax exemption, maintenance & no intentional homelessness



Care Leavers are entitled to free prescriptions



Young Reviewers Programme completed with 10 reviews written and feedback to be presented to the Trust Board in July 2022.

# In progress



Digital Inclusion Offer roll-out commenced June 2022 offers free digital kit, connectivity and training to all care leavers for 12 months.



FocusGov commissioned to co-design a Care Leaver App to promote the GM Care Leaver Guarantee and 10 GM LA Local Offers - launched October 2022.



GM Custody Offer - Focus on improving the identification of care experienced prisoners, an enhanced and publicised offer and GM minimum standards.



Progression of the Grant Thornton Recommendations. Mental Health Steering Group and Project Working Groups established to deliver against 4 priority areas (see slide 6).



GM Cared for Children and Care Leaver Participation Network established with links via the 10 GM Participation Officers and a residential trip to Ghyll Head in August 2022 reviewed priorities for 2022/23.



Education, Employment and Skills Offer being reinvigorated to make support and pathways clearer and easily accessible.



GM Care Leaver Event for Care Leaver Week took place in October 2022 to celebrate success and prepare for future initiatives.

# Cared for Children and Care Leaver Mental Health Priority themes

## What we know

Care experienced children and young people have consistently been found to have much higher rates of mental health difficulties than the general population.

### ***GM Children and Young People's Plan ambition:***

*“The support offered to children in care and care leavers is holistic, taking into account their complex physical and emotional health needs. Specialist support is available at the earliest point to provide a therapeutic response to the trauma many will have experienced, particularly adolescents.”*

- ▶ Mental Health clinical quality, capacity and pathways.
- ▶ Specialist therapies e.g. speech and language.
- ▶ Trauma informed care.
- ▶ Mental Health support in accommodation settings.



# Areas for improvement and challenges

- ▶ Improved communication and promotion of the GM Care Leaver offer to raise awareness and increase uptake.
- ▶ Continual engagement of care leavers so that their voice and experiences shape the priorities and our decision making and give us a true measure of impact.
- ▶ Cost of living crisis and the impact this will have on an already vulnerable group.
- ▶ Impact of Covid particularly on mental health.



# Greater Manchester Housing Providers



**We Pledge**

Greater Manchester Housing Providers

**A range of homes**

We will / we aim to:

1. Ensure young people leaving care have easy access to a range of accommodation that meets their needs.
2. Ensure that young people know their rights and understand their tenancy agreement.
3. Tailor our tenancy sign up procedures to support young people to understand them fully.
4. Prevent homelessness, we will support young people leaving care to sustain their tenancy, to learn the necessary skills to maintain a home. Might want to think about the order these pledges are placed
5. Work with our suppliers to provide furniture

**Life skills and mentoring**

We will / we aim to:

1. Support young people to connect with others who have lived experience, to encourage and promote their wellbeing.
2. Support young people to connect with their community and to utilise local assets.
3. Signpost young people to partners that offer a range of activities / events.
4. We support young people to learn how to manage their finances and increase their income.

**Employment and Skills**

We will / we aim to:

1. Provide offer work skills training, support into employment and apprenticeships to all our young people.
2. We will offer an enhanced support package when a care leaver commences employment with us, such as a peer mentor.
3. We will raise awareness within our organisation about the needs of young people.

**Supported by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham**

Logos at the bottom include: Your johnniejohnson, The Regenda Group, RBH, ARCON, Sanctuary Housing, Riverside, the guinness salix homes partnership, Jigsaw, SIX TOWN HOUSING, great places, firstchoice, Northwards Housing, msv, inwell valley, Bolton at Home, ForViva together housing, Southway, onward, Wigan & Leigh.



# Greater Manchester House Project Collaboration

“The purpose of the House Project is to make everyone happy. The House Project can help us as young people to get our own home, to have a place to stay safe.” (Manchester Young Person)



THE NATIONAL  
**HOUSE  
PROJECT**



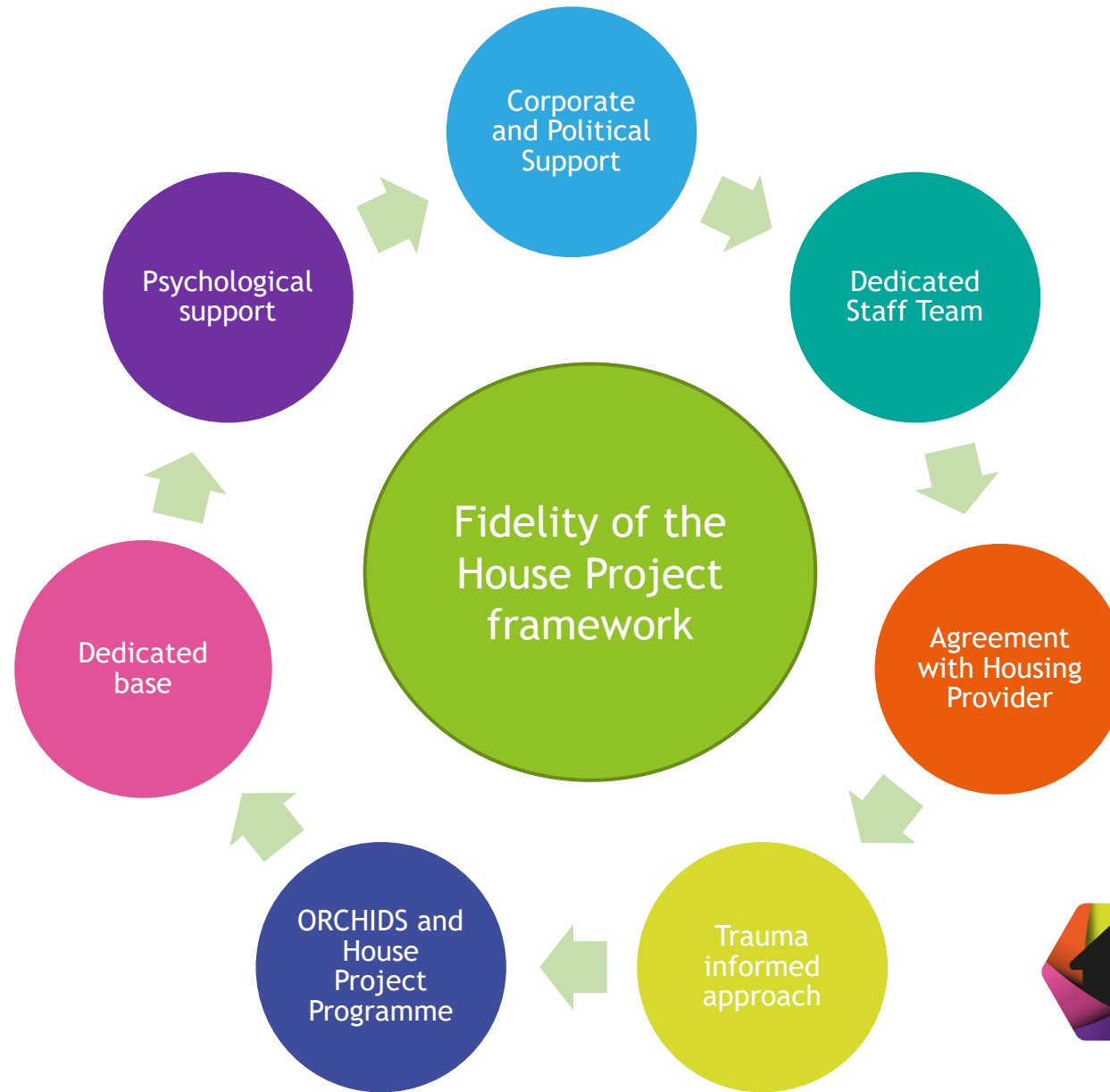
THE NATIONAL  
**HOUSE  
PROJECT**

## How Does it Work?

- Between 8-12 young people - groupwork approach
- Three members of staff
- Framework not a model
- Staff work to a psychologically informed practice framework
- Clinical Psychologist -formulation / supervision
- Housing partner - houses available at age 17
- House Project Programme (AQA)



THE NATIONAL  
**HOUSE  
PROJECT**



THE NATIONAL  
**HOUSE  
PROJECT**

# What will young people do?



Work with housing provider about choice and availability



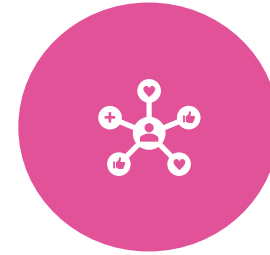
Get involved in 'doing up' the property- investment leads to **Ownership** and **Responsibility**



Build relationships with each other, with their **Community** and with local professionals



Get a house which - can be their **Home** as long as they want – provides focus & commitment



Preparation, training, ongoing support with a stable base develops **Independence** and **Direction**.  
Be a good tenant



Purpose, achievement and stable base gives **Sense of well being**

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Greater Manchester House Project Collaborative Board

Steering  
Group

Steering  
Group

Steering  
Group

Greater Manchester House Project Collaborative Co-ordinator

Project Lead

Project Lead

Project Lead

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HP –  
Manchester  
and Trafford

HP –  
Tameside and  
Stockport

HP – Bury,  
Rochdale and  
Oldham



# Greater Manchester Higher



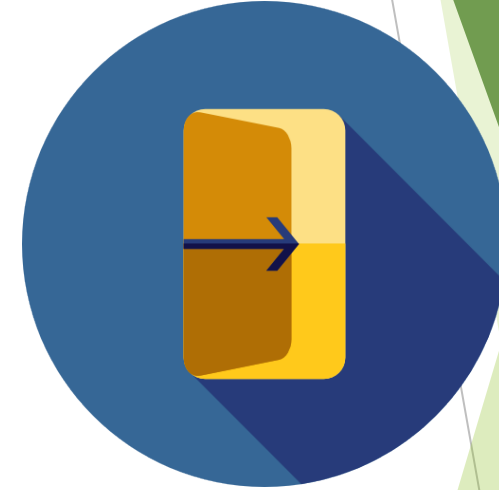
# Care Leavers and Higher Education



12% of Care Leavers  
enter Higher  
Education\*



11% less likely to  
enter HE than  
peers\*\*

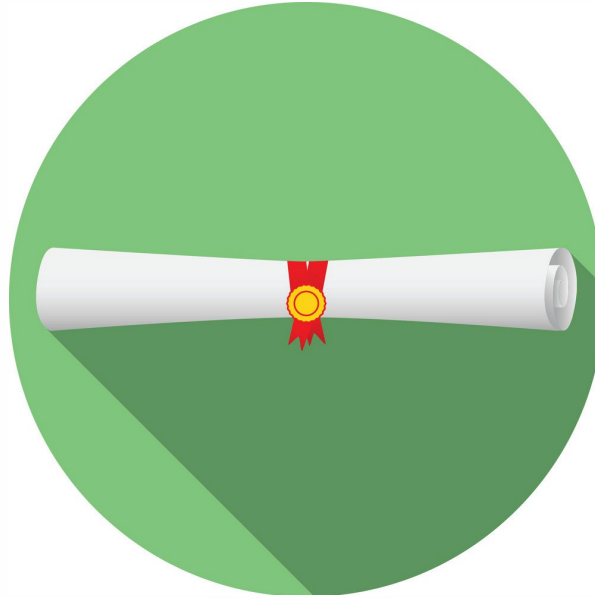


38% more likely to  
leave HE than  
peers\*\*

\* By age of 23- Moving on up report \*

\*\* Moving on Up Report, NNECL, 2017.

# Care Leavers and Higher Education



Care Leavers who complete their degrees are **just as likely** as their peers to achieve first or upper second class honours\*

\*Moving on Up Report, NNECL, 2017.

# University Support

- Pre-entry outreach activities
- Specific on course support:
  - Named contact
  - 52 week accommodation contract
  - Additional financial support
  - Access to pastoral support
- BECOME- [www.propel.org.uk](http://www.propel.org.uk)
  - Has details about the support available at every university and college
- National Network for Care Leavers- [www.nnecl.org](http://www.nnecl.org)
  - Specifically aimed at teachers and local authorities.

**IMPORTANT:**  
Sometimes the university definition to access support varies from the statutory definition.

**BECOME.**  
THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE  
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

**NNECL**  
National Network for the  
Education of Care Leavers

# Support in HE

Personal Tutors

Mental Health  
Services

Academic Support

Careers Service

Disability Services

Student Union

Counselling  
Services

Specialist Advisors,  
e.g. studying abroad



Additional support for care  
experienced, carers,  
estrangement etc

# Where to go for more info...

Greater Manchester Higher dedicated Care Leaver page:  
<https://gmhigher.ac.uk/careleavers/>

- Propel: [www.propel.org.uk](http://www.propel.org.uk)
- Become: [www.becomecharity.org.uk](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk)
- National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) [www.nnecl.org](http://www.nnecl.org)
- Student Finance Information: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)
- Money Saving Expert: [www.moneysavingexpert.com/students](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students)
- UCAS: [www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk)
- Buttle UK: [www.buttuk.org](http://www.buttuk.org)
- Bright Knowledge: [www.brightknowledge.org](http://www.brightknowledge.org)





# **GET ONLINE GREATER MANCHESTER: FOR CARE LEAVERS**

**Supporting care leavers with a comprehensive package of support to get online**

**Visit: [Greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/GetOnlineGM](https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/GetOnlineGM)**

## Why are we doing it?

- We wanted to create a digital offer to support care leavers by providing a digital connectivity access, devices and skills programme as Care Leavers are more at risk of being digitally excluded than their peers
- Care Leavers have to live and budget independently at a far earlier age than their peers (average age for leaving home is currently 26)
- Care Leavers therefore have less disposable income - cost of digital access causes isolation and exclusion from access to opportunities whether they are social, work, training or education related
- Aligns to the Young Persons Guarantee and Care Leavers Guarantee: Keeping Connected, Staying Well, Making Effective Transitions, & Reducing Economic Equalities

## What are the offers?

- The 'National Databank' - free data for up to 12 months (20Gb data per month) provided by The Good Things Foundation; supported by VMO2, Vodafone and 3 mobile
- Local borough device lending or donation services
- 'Learn My Way' digital skills programme - provided by The Good Things Foundation
- 'Money Matters' and 'Find My Futures' programmes for young people - provided by Salford Foundation
- In4Group - Skills City - Digital Bootcamps

# What we did? Key Partners & Application Process

**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
DOING DIGITAL DIFFERENTLY



**IN**  
**SKILLS CITY**  
Fair Access to Technology Futures

**salford  
foundation**

**Good Things  
Foundation**

**Bolton  
Council**

**Bury  
COUNCIL**

**MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL**

**Oldham  
Council**

**ROCHDALE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Salford City Council**

**STOCKPORT  
METROPOLETTAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Tameside  
Metropolitan Borough**

**TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL**

**Wigan  
Council**

**You are here:** [Home](#) / Care Leavers Digital Support Application

## Care Leavers Digital Support Application

- Successful pilot in Salford. Live across GM since Sept 22
- Online or paper based application form completed in a 1-2-1 meeting between the Care Leaver and their Personal Advisor (PA)
- Requested services go to the local borough Digital Inclusion Mailbox