

Department for Education's Care Leaver Covenant

The Mayor of London's actions for Care Leavers

1. GLA apprenticeship scheme

The Greater London Authority (GLA) apprenticeship scheme employs about 27 apprentices annually. We monitor the application, interview and appointment levels of applicants that identify as care experienced.

For the Covenant we commit to:

1. Offering a guaranteed telephone interview for care leavers that meet minimum requirements
2. Broadening our pre-employment support
3. Working with partners to increase numbers of applicants with care experience.

2. Careers & employment support

Helping young people to flourish with access to support and opportunities is one of the London Recovery Board's key programme outcomes. The recovery mission to provide a New Deal for Young People is that: 'By 2024 all young people in need are entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners have access to quality local youth activities.'

The aim of this mission of the GLA and London Councils, with London partner agencies, is to make sure that the young people facing the greatest barriers to realising their potential including care leavers are getting tailored support.

The Mayor's European Social Fund (2019-23) Programme from 2021 will be supporting young people aged 16 to 24 who are not in education employment or training, and careers support for secondary schools.

For the Covenant we commit to

1. Including care leavers as a targeted group within the ESF funding allocation
2. Ensuring every care leaver is entitled to a personal mentor by 2024 as part of the Mayor's New Deal for Young People

3. The Mayor's Peer Outreach Team

Around 30 young people aged 16 to 24 are members of the Peer Outreach team. They are commissioned by the Mayor to engage, inspire and gather the opinions of other young people in the capital. Their work helps shape the GLA's policies, strategies and services.

The team takes referrals from organisations working with looked after children and care leavers to recruit its members.

For the Covenant we commit to:

1. Advertising this opportunity through the Covenant online portal

2. Providing the opportunity for Peer Outreach Workers with care experience to influence GLA policy in this area

4. Mental Health support for London's care leavers

The GLA is already delivering a scheme to train 200 young people in mental health first aid. This included a training event for care leavers during Care Leavers Week 2018. Better health and wellbeing for Londoners most affected by the pandemic is one of the London Recovery Board's key programme outcomes. More opportunities to support care leavers will be taken through the mission that: 'By 2025, London will have a quarter of a million wellbeing ambassadors, supporting Londoners where they live, work and play.'

For the Covenant, we commit to:

1. Continuing to promote the mental health first aid training to organisations supporting care leavers
2. Reserving up to two places for care leavers on every youth mental health first aid training course

5. Young people with Insecure Immigration Status

The Mayor is committed to supporting young Londoners with insecure status to secure their citizenship and settlement rights, including those in care and care leavers.

The Mayor is delivering a programme which seeks to develop a transferrable model for local authorities to successfully identify and support the immigration and citizenship needs of children in their care and their care leavers. It enables local authorities to resolve immigration needs at a time when the immigration system is undergoing changes post-Brexit and there is scant data available on the numbers of children in care and care leavers with citizenship and immigration needs.

For the Covenant we commit to:

1. Publishing online guidance for young Londoners with immigration needs so that they, and those supporting them such as social workers or personal advisors, can get information and access resources around resolving immigration status
2. Promote the issue and our resources to virtual school heads and promote the resources on the Covenant portal

6. Promoting consistency in the London offer to care leavers

The Mayor co-convenes the London Local Authority Network for Care Leavers, a network that brings together representatives from all London local authorities in the format of themed webinars to work collaboratively and share best practice working towards the goal of London-wide consistency.

For the Covenant we commit to:

1. Working with London boroughs and the third sector on sharing best practice and ways to work collaboratively for the benefit of London's Care Leavers
2. Continuing to keep the perspective of care leavers' experiences at the heart of GLA's work

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