

CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP



CARE LEAVERS SUMMARY (2008)

Compiled by Stephen McMurray

Introduction

This summary updates information presented in ‘The Position of Joined up for Jobs Target Groups’ report in 2005. This report considered each target group and in addition to the categories below included; overlaps between the different target groups, perceived gaps in service provision, information gaps, and conclusions and recommendations. This report is available from CCP.

Scope

In 2006-07, there were **394** children ceasing to be looked after in the city of Edinburgh and **570** young people were entitled to aftercare support (Scottish Government 2007).

<u>TARGET GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER IN EDINBURGH</u>	<u>NOT WORKING</u>	<u>SOURCES</u>
Care Leavers	At least 600 , in the 16-21 age bracket	Likely to be around 500	Scottish Government 2007

Definition

A Care Leaver within the meaning of the **Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000** is a young person between the ages of 16-21 who is leaving (or has left) the care system having spent at least three months (continuously or in aggregate since the age of 14) being in the care of the local authority.

Employment

The Scottish Government reported in the year 2006-07; that only **15%** of young people entitled to aftercare in a Scottish context are in training or employment.

Barriers to Employment

- Educational issues around low expectations and poor qualification attainment.
- Social issues around low confidence, motivation, and chaotic lifestyles.
- Issues around service provision and needed support not just guidance and information.
- Benefit system acts as major disincentive.
- Don't know how to properly apply for jobs.
- More likely to have criminal record.

Employability Services

Large number of services available, most relevant are likely to be:

- **Edinburgh Cyrenians** – "People with Potential" preparation for work courses (PWP).
- **The Fairbridge Project** – Helps develop confidence, motivation and life skills.
- **GetReady for Work** – Managed by Scottish Enterprise, is a national training initiative for 16-18/19 year olds who are not ready to enter the work place.
- **Modern Apprenticeships** – Managed by Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian (SEE&L), offer those aged over 16 paid employment combined with the opportunity to train for jobs at craft, technician and management level.
- **Move On** – Operates a mentoring service for young care leavers, which can aid their ability to set and achieve goals, which in some cases are employment related.
- **New Deal for Young People (18-24)** – Residential care leavers are entitled to early entry.
- **Passport** - Programme of personal support for those moving out of care, prison, drug use and homelessness. Clients will be supported, challenged and motivated to move on into training, education and employment within 4-6 months.
- **The Prince's Trust** – Develops softer skills, confidence and self esteem.
- **Skillseekers** – Training programme run by SEE&L, primarily for 16-18 year olds.
- **Spectrum** - Integrated service of guidance, learning and progression support for vulnerable people with complex needs.

Further Reading

The Scottish Government (2007) Children Looked after statistics, Edinburgh.

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