



Staying Connected

Staying close - Southampton City Council

Staying Close

Supporting young people into independence

Core staying close offer

Essential wrap around support

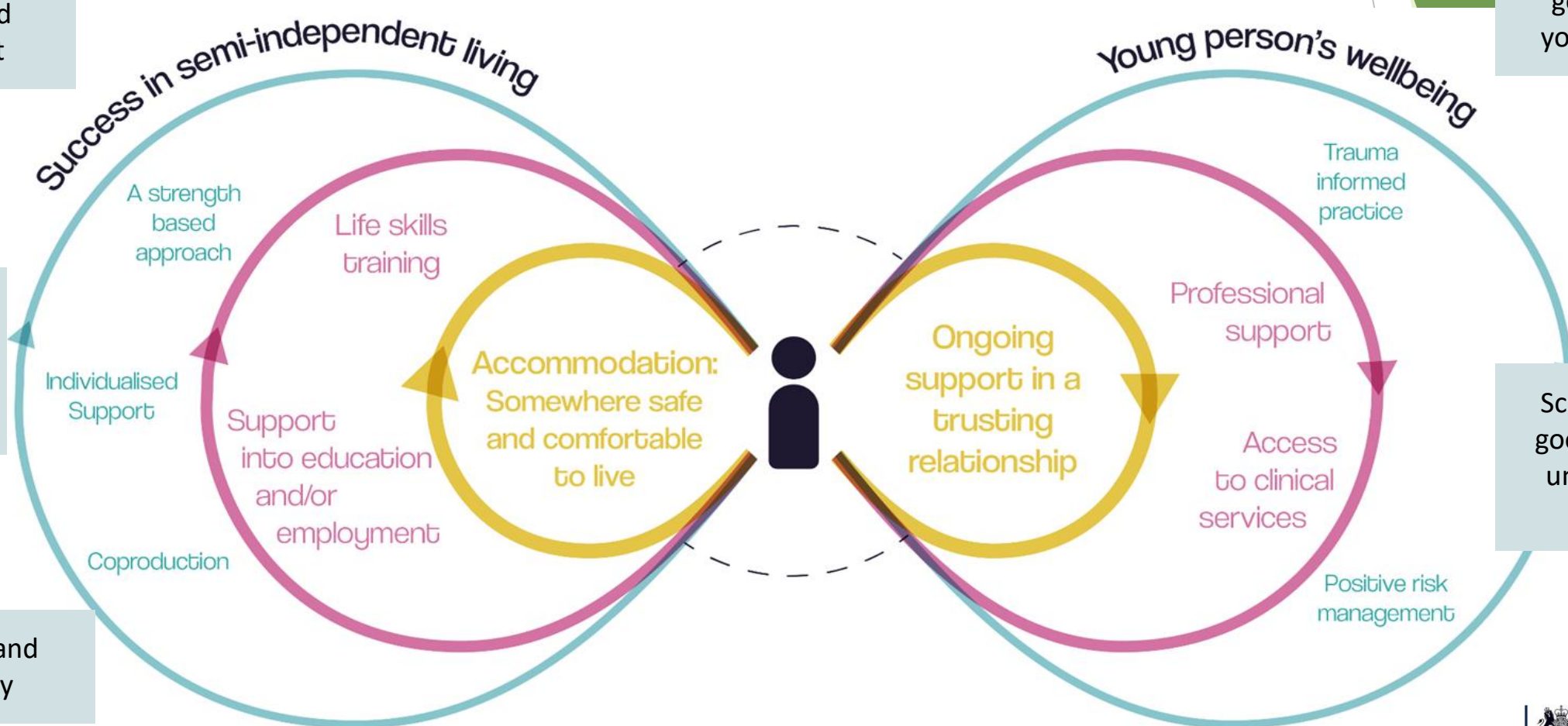
Foundational culture and practice

Taking time to get to know young people

Love and support

Work alongside young people

Choice and agency



Scope to make good decisions; unconditional support

Intelligence from the pilots



SET UP MONITORING
PROCESSES EARLY



ENSURE A CLEAR
EMOTIONAL HEALTH
OFFER IS READY



PERSONALISATION IS
KEY



ENGAGE THE
PARTNERSHIP



ENGAGE YOUNG
PEOPLE EARLY



THINK ABOUT MOVE
ON PLANS



MAKE TIME FOR THE
PROJECT AND BE
FLEXIBLE

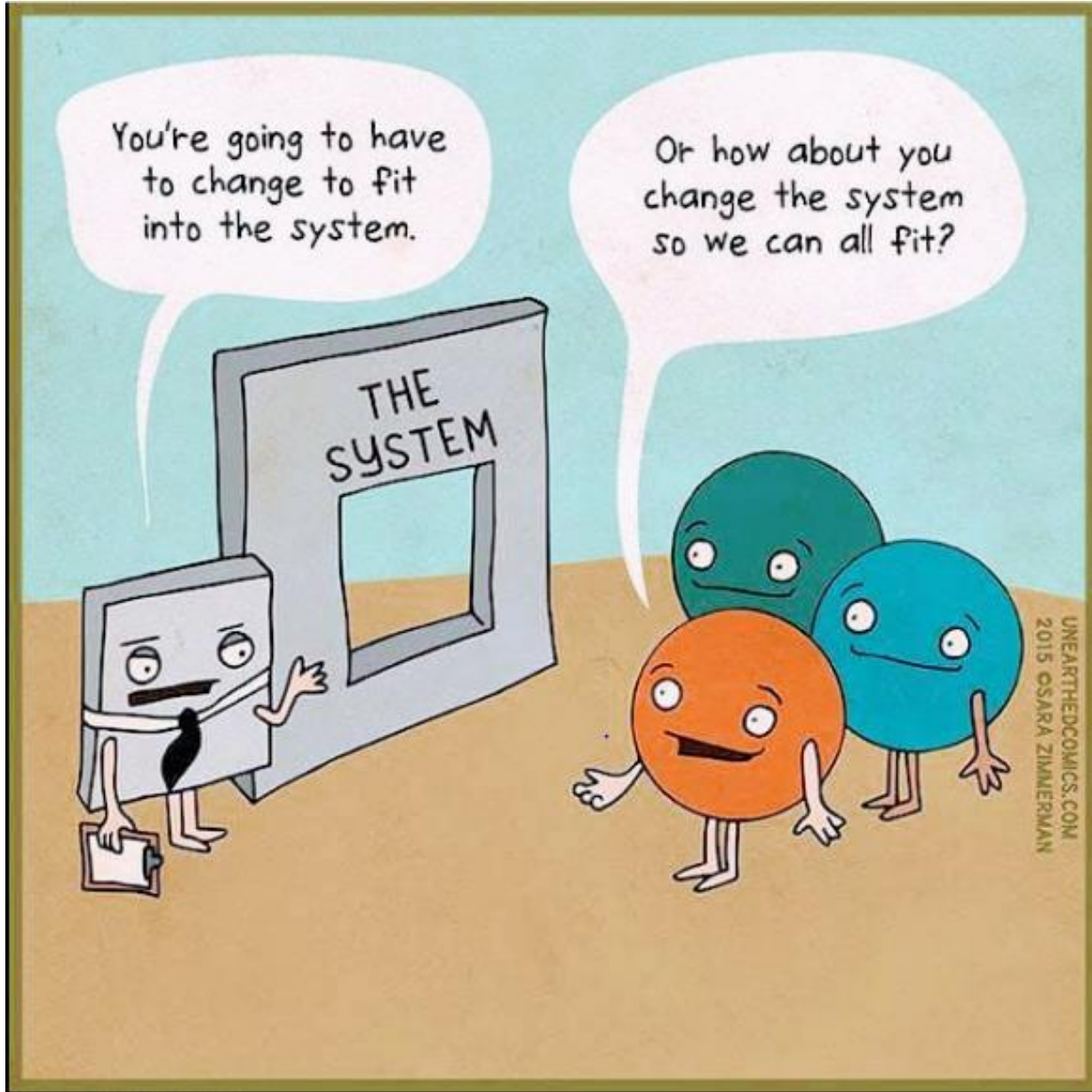
Staying Connected - the principles

Residential care leavers can experience the following risks

- ▶ Care Leavers are at significantly increased risk of homelessness within two years of leaving care.
- ▶ Loss of significant relationships, isolation and loneliness.
- ▶ Difficulties around securing and maintaining Employment, Education or Training offers.
- ▶ Care leavers often have higher levels of difficulties with mental or emotional health than their peers and more likely to use substances

How Staying Connected aims to mitigate these risks

- ▶ Creating a housing model that enables security and development of life skills to support them to be successful in independence.
- ▶ Creating an extended longer term relational, systemic model.
- ▶ Provision of individualised programmes to become EET.
- ▶ Working with the extended partnership to further develop bespoke offers for care leavers



You're going to have to change to fit into the system.

Or how about you change the system so we can all fit?

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2015 OSARA ZIMMERMAN

Project staffing

- **1 FTE Programme Lead - Staying Connected**

The Programme lead will be the conduit between the operational and strategic elements of the service and will ensure that key messages are communicated, and policy, procedure and guidance are implemented and monitored. The Programme Lead will be responsible for managing the homes including the day to day line management of the Independence Advisors.

- **3 x FTE Independence Advisors**

The Independence Advisors will be responsible for engaging with approximately 8-16 young people. They will work directly with the ' Staying Connected' homes, with small caseloads, supported by a multi-disciplinary wrap-around offer to help young people with their emotional, physical health needs, exploitation, substance misuse, EET and life skills. They will support young people emotionally and practically to move into a suitable accommodation.

- **Support Workers - Currently externally sourced**

The support workers provide support for the young people within their accommodation. They work alongside the Independence Advisors to support the young people to achieve their goals.



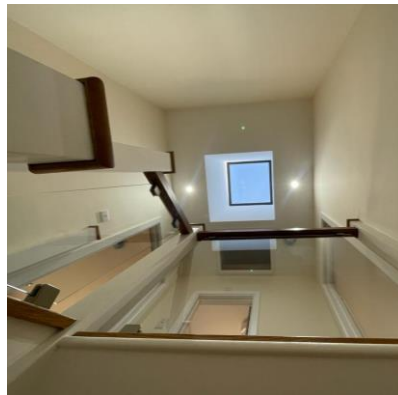
Southampton City Council

The concept of our Staying Connected Project

- ▶ A relationship based approach to supporting young people who are leaving residential care placements.
- ▶ Low caseloads and more accessible support for Care Leavers
- ▶ Positive Transition experience
- ▶ Young people are intensively supported through the first home (with the intended timescale of 12 months) there will be a high level of support.
- ▶ Lasting relationships with adults they can trust & rely on
- ▶ Support is tailored to the young persons needs
- ▶ Extended Support: This phase is about sustaining progress, remaining in EET and becoming tenancy ready.

The Accommodation - High Support

- ▶ High spec 4 bedded leased homes with reception areas and communal kitchen.
- ▶ Homely & design input from Young People
- ▶ Lounge area, kitchen and outdoor space to work on life skills with the young people.
- ▶ There will be connection to the internet.
- ▶ Staying Connected Personal Advisors will have access to an office base in each home which will double as a sleep in room for residential worker sleep in's.





The accommodation - extended support

- ▶ Will be a house of multiple occupancy
- ▶ There would be a lounge area and a room that doubles as a communal dining/meeting room
- ▶ Would include Wi-Fi and television options
- ▶ Will have suitable outdoor space
- ▶ There is an office space for Staying Connected Personal Advisors
- ▶ Housing will support the young people to start managing a tenancy alongside the Staying Connected offer as per service level agreement.

Overarching Practice Framework

The model is relational with small caseloads to allow meaningful, relational work with the young people.

The relationship is formed with the Care Leaver prior to them moving into the first supported accommodation to ensure that they are fully supported.

The relationships allow for time and tenacity - intensive support

The IA stays on the journey with the Care Leaver as they move through the programme and into independently living arrangements.

The relationship developed with the IA will allow high levels of support and in turn support strong transitional arrangements

The co-allocation model will ensure that there is always a PA who has a relationship with the Young Person and provide support in the event of staff sickness/ absence to provide stability.

Executive Steering Board

This board will comprise of:

- ▶ The Head of Services for Corporate Parenting, the Young Persons Service
- ▶ BRS
- ▶ The Associate Designated Safeguarding Nurse for CLA and Adults
- ▶ The Service Lead for Stronger Communities Neighbourhoods
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ The Education Service Lead for Education Strategy and Improvement

The Programme Lead for Staying Connected will feed into this group on a regular basis

Employment education and training offer

Accredited Life
Skills Programme

The Learning
support hub with a
development of an
outreach provision

The employment
hub

Specific work
experience offers to
be tailored through
SCC and partners

Exploring work
experience and
Apprenticeships

Links to generic EET
offer from the Care
Leavers offer

Life skills Offer - Delivered by staff group in the home



Budgeting - to include shopping/rent management/hobbies



Cooking - to be linked to the participation offer



Positive activities - this is aligned to the SCC local offer



Managing home and independence - washing clothes/cleaning etc



Relationships with family & positive friendships or peer groups



Engaging with health offers



Choices/behaviours



Participation and co-production - making and keeping house rules/own pathway plan/wider participation

Delivery

The young people identified have been provided with suitable accommodation and support to meet their needs.

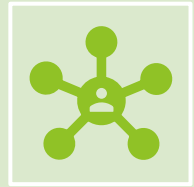


The programme is delivering positive outcomes for the young people who are being supported such as positive changes in sleep patterns, improvement in mental health, positive changes to EET status and accessing support services. The young people have been linked into local services and supported to establish a support network.



The delivery of an Independent life skills programme has been developed in this quarter. The programme has been delivered to Care Leavers by the IA's alongside partner agencies, who have supportive of the delivery.

Extended and next step support offers



The extended support offer

Enables onward planning around life-skills without live in support

Tailored support package to meet needs of YP.

This would include 2 contacts minimum per week from the allocated IA.

Continued access to the wrap around offers as needed

Specific goal of preparation for own SCC tenancy for leaving extended support home



When tenancy ready

Built in Tenancy Support worker from SCC ready for leaving into own accommodation

Minimum visiting patterns when leaving extended support.

Weekly for 4 weeks, fortnightly for 3 months, monthly for 3 months with phone support. Then 8 weekly with phone support until 21

Additional input from SCC tenancy support worker

Continued access to the wrap around offer as needed



Challenges and solutions

- ▶ Delays in recruitment
- ▶ Finding suitable housing for the Staying Close Programme has been challenging and it has taken more time than anticipated to develop relationships with partners to identify suitable housing for young people.
- ▶ Some of the young people who have moved into the accommodation have not received the desired level of support to develop their Independent Life Skills from their previous accommodation providers.
- ▶ Initially, there were very few young people being identified for the staying close programme. Extensive work has been carried out to raise the awareness of the programme within the service..

Young Person Feedback

‘I just wanted to let you know that following on from M moving into your Stay Close house she had provided me with some feedback that I felt I should share! M states that she feels this is the best transition she has ever experienced. She told me that she has felt supported, listened to and a part of the decisions being made. She especially liked meeting N (Independence Advisor) with me and then getting to know her better.’

‘It’s the nicest house I love living here’

Young Person Feedback

'Finally I would like to thank D for stepping in not only making this hole daunting experience, easy, service user led as well as helping me make an education decision by not swaying my judgment but giving me the information, giving it time to dissolve and digest for me to make my own decision on what's best for me. You have got it right this time and I am impressed I have never had such a smooth transition from one placement to the next while being in care.'

'such a proactive approach and building a strong base for a professional and therapeutic relationship, often just meeting up for a catch up with no hidden agenda. I feel you were genuinely interested in me and my work, as well as letting me help with the garden at the new property and teaching me about the garden and weeds ect.'

Young Person Feedback

'It's the best place I have ever stayed and been allowed to make choices about my move'

'It was nice to get to know others before I moved to make me feel less worried, especially moving back to Southampton after being away for so long I didn't really know anyone'

' workers take time to show me how to cook and eat with me – proper meals my favourite thing I have learnt is Tacos'

'Thank-you to the whole team for making this a fantastic experience.'



EVERY CHILD DESERVES
A CHAMPION,
AN ADULT WHO WILL
NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM,
WHO UNDERSTANDS THE
POWER OF CONNECTION,
AND INSISTS THAT THEY
BECOME THE BEST THAT
THEY CAN POSSIBLY BE.

- RITA PIERSON





Questions