

LATE ENTRANTS DISCOVERY RESEARCH: KEY FINDINGS



BRENT

16+

There are a growing number of young people coming into care at or after the age of 16 in Brent (“late entrants to care”). We need to hear from them in order to improve their care journeys, so that they can get to their personal positive destinations.

POSITIVE DESTINATIONS

is the term we use to mean that you feel like you are in a good place in your life. Everyone will have their own personal Positive Destination.



WE DID THIS RESEARCH WITH



16 young people



11 professionals



WHAT DID WE LEARN ?

- as unaccompanied asylum seeking young people
- through the youth justice system
- as a result of family breakdown
- via mental health inpatient facilities

There are **four main ways** young people are coming into care as late entrants

Late entrants have a number of **strengths**:

- they are incredibly emotionally resilient
- they have good support networks
- they are not afraid to challenge the way things are

Young people told us coming into care late can **feel**:

- disruptive and uncertain
- like they are not in control of their care journeys
- some said it made them feel like they were being judged

“They are very resourceful, they’ve got lots of resilience, they’ve made it through a lot of their lives without us.”

- Professional

“I was spoken to as if I was an unappreciative person, like I didn’t appreciate things that were happening for me. And I was like ‘But this isn’t great! This is horrible!’”

- Young person

YOUNG PEOPLE'S KEY NEEDS WERE MAINLY AROUND:



housing



emotional support



practical needs

What was being in care like for late entrants?

They said they...

- get fed up trying to ask for help - it only comes in a crisis
- feel let down, and like they have to do things themselves
- felt like they were given some freedom but also that they would have lots of paperwork and curfews to stick to

"When we were under care it felt like we were under surveillance, like we were always being watched..."

It's like your own little prison. Everywhere you go it's like you have no freedom"

- Young person

We asked young people about good support.

They said good support was...

- getting practical help
- being spoken to like a young adult
- feeling emotionally supported;
- having someone believe them and believe in them

"My keyworker helped me a lot, for the house, for everything, for my benefits, because I don't know how to apply for my benefits, and I don't know how to do my bills"

- Young person



FALLING THROUGH THE GAPS



Handovers between staff

When staff change or leave (which can happen quite frequently) there is often very little time to do a good handover, and young people feel the impact of this.



Youth justice system

Many young people who come through the youth justice system are not well supported pre-release so everything feels rushed when it comes to leaving prison.

The following issues were spoken about by both young people and professionals - these stop young people from reaching positive destinations.



Documentation and age assessment

The system stops some young people, particularly those who are unaccompanied asylum seekers, from getting the right paperwork at the right time, which prevents them from being able to do things like enrol in college.

WHAT IS WORKING WELL IN BRENT TODAY?

Staff said they think Brent does well on partnership working, meeting young people's needs, and building good relationships.



But there are lots of areas for improvement including: more focus on working directly with young people rather than doing admin, more resources for activities, and improving the language and tools that are being used.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Our promise:

We will use the findings from this research to test new ideas that could help us solve some of the key problems highlighted here.



“What I am going to do is turn up over and over again for this young person, answer my phone, respond to their text messages. This is about pure and simple relationship building.”

- Professional

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