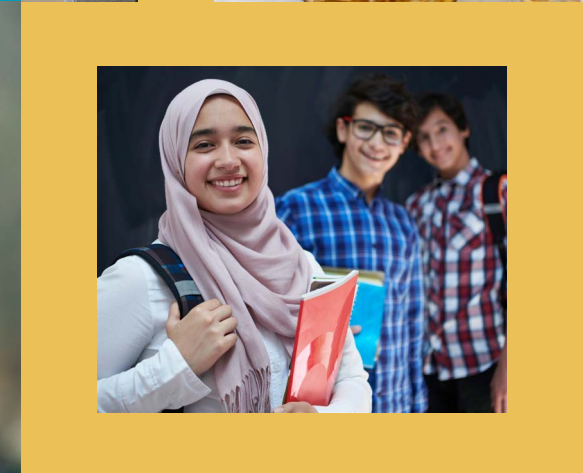




Camden's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028





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Foreword from Councillor Boyland



In Camden, we are proud to have taken a bold and essential step in January 2024 and made ‘care-experience’ a locally protected characteristic. As the Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life and Co-chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, I want to express our deep commitment to ensuring that Camden’s children in care and care-experienced young people are supported, valued, and given every opportunity to thrive. We aim to reduce the multiple systemic stigmas, disadvantages, and discrimination you have faced. This decision recognises your unique challenges and is a call to action for all of us to improve—both as your corporate parents and as a community.

This is a moment of change in Camden and across the country. There is a growing national movement to enhance support for care-experienced children and young people. In Camden, we are determined to lead the way. Our ambition is clear: to care for you as any loving parent would, providing stability, encouragement, and the opportunity to grow into the confident and independent person you aspire to be. At the same time, we understand that the best place for most children is at home with their families. That’s why we are committed to doing everything possible to support families in staying together whenever it is safe. When entering care is necessary, we will work hard to ensure you join a family setting where you can thrive. If living with a family isn’t an option, we will ensure that you are supported in a trauma-informed group setting that enables you to succeed. If you want

to read more about our work in this space, please see our Kinship and Placement Sufficiency Strategies.

Our Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our plans for the next three years. It also pulls together our work on the Youth Mission and Child Health Equity work which aims to improve our services to children and young people across Camden. The Corporate Parenting Strategy focuses on the areas we need to improve and builds on our strengths to ensure that every child and young person in our care feels safe, supported, and proud of who they are. We will communicate our plans to provide you with a stable and loving home and the steps we will take to enhance education, training, and life opportunities. We are committed to working together to achieve meaningful change. However, this responsibility does not lie solely with the council. Corporate parenting is everyone’s responsibility. Schools, health practitioners, employers, and our local businesses and community all play a part in helping to thrive. This strategy reflects our shared commitment to working as one team, with you at the centre of everything we do.

As we embark on this journey together, I want to thank the children and young people who have shared their experiences, hopes, and ideas in shaping this strategy. Your voices have been, and will always be, at the heart of our work. We promise to hold ourselves accountable for delivering this plan. Together, we will create a Camden where care-experienced people feel valued, supported, and empowered to achieve their dreams.

Introduction

This document sets out Camden’s Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2025 to 2028.

As your Corporate Parents, we have to ensure that all children and young people who experience care have the support, opportunities, and care they need to thrive. Whether you’re a child in care or a young person leaving care, this isn’t just about what’s already in place—it’s about what we will work on doing better over the next three years.

This strategy is our plan. It examines our weaknesses and identifies clear actions to ensure your safety, value, and support. We know we need to do more in certain areas and are committed to making the changes that matter most to you.

We’ve built this plan by listening to you and the people who support you daily, foster carers, social workers, teachers, health workers, and community partners. We’ve also made it clear that corporate parenting is everybody’s business. Schools, health services, housing teams, employers, and the wider community have to ensure you have the care and opportunities you deserve.

Over the next three years, we will:

- Help you build strong relationships, feel connected to your community, and be proud of yourself.
- Ensure everyone who supports you understands your specific needs and that you also know your rights as a care-experienced individual.
- Support your physical and emotional well-being, ensuring you have what you need to feel happy and healthy.
- Helping you grow, learn, and prepare for your future by improving access to education, training, life skills and employment opportunities.
- Ensuring you feel at home, wherever you live, with the stability and support you need to thrive.



This strategy differs from the Local Offer, which tells you about the available support. Instead, it is our roadmap for the future—a plan for how we’ll do better together. We’ll work with you to ensure we deliver on our promises, and if something isn’t working, we’ll listen and adapt.

Being your Corporate Parent means doing everything possible to give you the opportunities, love, and care you need to succeed. You deserve the very best.



Participation: embedding your voice at the heart of decision-making

Your voice should shape the services and decisions that affect your life. Participation in Camden is more than consultation—it's about creating meaningful opportunities for you to lead change, hold us accountable, and see your ideas turned into action. We will build an approach to participation which will ensure that:

- You have safe, welcoming environments where you feel comfortable sharing your views.
- You can express your ideas in accessible and inclusive ways tailored to your needs.
- Decision-makers actively listen and act on your contributions.
- You can see clear evidence that your input leads to meaningful change.

To achieve this, we will strengthen our Children in Care Council and make it the primary forum for consultation and participation. This space will allow your ideas, feedback, and priorities to influence our decisions directly. We also commit to:

- Removing barriers to participation, such as providing interpreters for unaccompanied and separated children, inclusive spaces for neurodiverse children and young people, and covering childcare or transport costs.
- Embedding participation at every stage

of service design, so your input shapes decisions from the start.

- Creating safe, trauma-informed spaces for sensitive discussions, with emotional support available afterwards.

By building on existing initiatives and establishing new opportunities, we will ensure that your voice drives accountability and leads to real improvements in the services and support you receive.



Our shared priorities

The five promises at the heart of this strategy were shaped by what matters most to children in care and care-experienced young people. Through listening to your voices—whether shared in conversations, workshops, or surveys—we heard about your most important areas: feeling safe and secure, being supported in your aspirations, and having strong, meaningful relationships. These promises also reflect the insight and dedication of the practitioners who work alongside you daily, who share their perspectives on how we can better support you in overcoming challenges and achieving your potential. Your feedback and expertise have guided us in creating these promises, which form the foundation of everything we aim to achieve in this strategy.

1. Your sense of belonging and relationships	2. Your rights and aspirations	3. Your well-being	4. Your interests and life goals	5. Your home
<p data-bbox="129 794 488 1166">"We promise to celebrate you for who you are and help you feel like you belong to your local community. We will support you in developing long lasting, supportive relationships with people who are important to you."</p> 	<p data-bbox="555 794 869 1273">"We promise to ensure that all the people who support you are care conscious and act as your corporate parent. We will advocate for your rights and aspirations, ensure your voice is heard, and protect you from facing disadvantage from wider services and the community."</p> 	<p data-bbox="958 794 1272 1161">"We promise to support you in adopting a happy and healthy lifestyle and to help you navigate how you feel and life's ups and downs, ensuring your health and emotional well-being needs are met."</p> 	<p data-bbox="1361 794 1675 1086">"We promise to champion you and help you find and succeed in the right education, training, and employment aligned with your life goals and interests."</p> 	<p data-bbox="1765 794 2078 1198">"We promise that you will have a place to stay which feels safe and secure. We will do our best to find a stable accommodation that meets your needs, connects you to a community, and eventually help you find a place you can call home."</p> 

Priority 1: your sense of belonging and relationships

“We promise to celebrate you for who you are and help you feel like you belong to your local community. We will support you in developing long-lasting, supportive relationships with people who are important to you.”



What you have told us

“I need help not being mega lonely.”

“Volunteering, college and church [helps me feel connected to my community].”

“[I feel connected to my community because] I go to the mosque where I meet friends, I also play football with my friends, I use the gym. I go to college where I have lots of friends.”

“I don’t know my community all too well.”

“I’m just very lonely and isolated because of my severe social anxiety and avoidance tendencies.”

“I don’t socialise with the community because they are strangers (stranger danger).”

“[The best thing you guys could do] is design a process that allows [young people] to find likeminded people and build community.”



The challenge

We know that feeling connected and belonging is essential for well-being and confidence. Many care-experienced young people have told us they sometimes feel isolated or disconnected, especially in their relationships or when they feel part of a community.

Camden has some strong foundations to build on: programme like Grand Mentors, which connect care leavers with intergenerational mentors, are already help create valuable relationships. The yearly Virtual School Award Ceremony celebrates your achievements and brings the community together. However, there are still challenges to address. Many of you have experienced relationship disruptions, and building new, lasting connections can be tricky. Opportunities to celebrate your achievements and hear your voices in decision-making can sometimes feel limited or inaccessible. You have also told us that more spaces and activities are needed to unite young people and reduce feelings of isolation.



Our vision

We want you to feel a strong sense of belonging in Camden, with opportunities to build meaningful relationships and be active in your community. This means creating safe spaces to connect with others, share your experiences, and build supportive relationships. It also means celebrating your achievements and unique identity in ways that make you feel valued and appreciated.

Our primary goal in this area of work is to create a physical hub entirely dedicated to you, a home away from home where you can access support, socialise with others, and participate in activities. We also want to embed a Lifelong Links programme to be more proactive in helping you strengthen and maintain essential relationships throughout your life.



What we will do:

1. Co-design a dedicated hub for care-experienced young people, created with your input, where you can connect, access resources, and feel at home.
2. Increase opportunities for peer mentoring, fun activities, and events to help you meet others and build lasting connections.
3. Embed Lifelong Links- a program focused on helping you strengthen and maintain essential relationships throughout your life.
4. Create a depository of all the community activities you can participate in in your area. This will help you connect with your local community, meet new people, and participate in locally based activities that align with your interests.
5. We will continue to improve our approach to supporting your family's reunification when it is safe and per your wishes.

Priority 2: your rights and aspirations

“We promise to ensure that everyone supporting you is care-conscious and act as your corporate parent. We will advocate for your rights and aspirations, ensure your voice is heard, and protect you from facing disadvantage from wider services and the community.”



What you have told us

“I just want to be heard more.”

“Really try to understand us.”

“Never give up on the kids.”

“Ask us what we want more often, more choice.”

“I was always blamed for struggling to be obedient when I was facing trauma every day. Nobody stopped to ask me if I was okay or saw things from a higher perspective of a child battling trauma from parents and carers who lacked patience, empathy and understanding.”





The challenge

National data shows that care-experienced young people often face stigma, disadvantage, and even discrimination. We also know that your experiences are shaped by many factors, including race, gender, disability, and sexuality, and that these intersections can create additional challenges.

Not all professionals or service providers you encounter fully understand your unique needs or how to support you in ways that are inclusive and anti-racist. Many of you have told us that you don't always feel genuinely heard by the people helping you or that you're given enough choice in decisions about your care.



Our vision

We want Camden to be where every care-experienced young person feels supported, valued, and empowered. This means ensuring our workforce, partners, and service providers are care-conscious, anti-racist, and committed to understanding your unique experiences and needs. We aspire to be the best Black corporate parent, actively addressing systemic inequalities and ensuring you feel represented, respected, and included. As such, we want to develop more initiatives, such as the Replenish Box, a box filled with products to look after skin and hair for Black children in care.

We also want you to feel heard and to have more control over decisions that affect your life. For example, you should be consulted and prepared for reviews, actively participate in care planning, and have choices about your future.

Adopting care-experience as a protected characteristic in January 2024 is a step in the right direction. Still, we know more must be done to ensure you do not face stigma, disadvantage, or discrimination.

What we will do:

1. We will champion intersectionality, ensuring all staff and partners understand how your care-experience intersects with other aspects of your identity, like race, sexuality, disability, or gender, and take an anti-racist approach in everything we do.
2. We will amplify your voice by working with you to make sure you feel honestly heard in reviews and care planning, with more preparation, consultation, and opportunities to shape the decisions affecting your life.
3. We will reset how we collect workforce data to include care-experience and encourage our partners and providers to do the same.
4. We will train all staff to improve their understanding of your care-experience and promote anti-racist and inclusive practices.
5. We will encourage our partners and organisations in Camden to collect data on care-experienced people and take meaningful action to improve their support.
6. We will help you better understand your rights, such as accessing free prescriptions if you are a care-experienced young person aged 18–25.

Priority 3: your well-being

“We promise to support you in adopting a happy and healthy lifestyle and to help you navigate how you feel and life’s ups and downs, ensuring your health and emotional well-being needs are met.”



What you have told us

“I feel the medical system forget about you when you turn 18 and make it hard to continue getting help.”

“I wish I could move up the waiting list in CAMHS quicker.”

“A support system, therapy and mental health services should be more accessible to young people who have faced trauma from their childhood. Living in someone else’s home as a stranger is not easy.”

“It’s good to talk to someone, I felt relief and get really helpful advice’s (sic).”

“I can talk about my problems and I won’t be judged and [it stays] confidential(sic).” “It’s good to get things off my chest.” “They understood me and helped me to calm down.”



The challenge

Looking after your health and well-being can be difficult, especially when life gets busy or overwhelming. National research shows that care-experienced children and young people often face higher levels of stress and mental health challenges compared to their peers. Some of you might not have access to the same consistent support networks that others rely on during difficult times.

At the same time, professionals and services don't always fully understand your specific needs or the unique pressures you face. Not all health services are designed with your needs in mind, and accessing consistent support can feel complicated, especially if you live outside the borough.

We appreciate that services for children and young adults are not always aligned and it can be difficult to navigate this processes without support.



Our vision

We want you to feel confident in managing your overall well-being, knowing that you can easily access services and support you need to stay physically healthy and emotionally strong. Whether you need proper medical care, support to manage stress, build healthy habits, or participate in sports and activities that support your physical, mental, and emotional well-being, we want to be here with you and empower you every step. We want all services to be equitable, responsive to your unique needs, and free from stigma or barriers.

We want to prioritise your health and emotional well-being across all services, with strong partnerships between Camden Council, health services, and community organisations.



What we will do:

1. We will continue to develop mental health support post-18 to ensure that you have support as you grow older with smooth transitions.
2. Develop training for people who work alongside you to support you with your physical and mental well-being, like pathway providers.
3. Develop tailored advice and resources to support you with healthy living, such as cooking classes, workshops on sexual health, etc.
4. In line with our subsidised gym membership offer, provide additional free/subsidised physical activities and develop our social prescribing offer to help you connect with activities and services that promote a balanced and healthy lifestyle.
5. Work closely with Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to ensure corporate parenting duties are embedded across all health and social care partners.

Priority 4: your interests and life goals

“We promise to champion you and help you find and succeed in the right education, training, and employment aligned with your life goals and interests.”



What you have told us

“I am in Uni and financially struggling, any form of support would be appreciated.”

“[I would like] extra tutoring in Maths and English.”

“[I would like] care friendly businesses who cater for people in and out of care.”

“I haven’t been working for one year I want to do something in my life.”





The challenge

Finding education, training, or job opportunities that suit your goals can sometimes feel like a maze. Knowing what's available or how to take the next step toward your goals is not always easy, and it can sometimes take a while to discover what you enjoy and want to do.

Here are some of the challenges we've heard from young people like you:

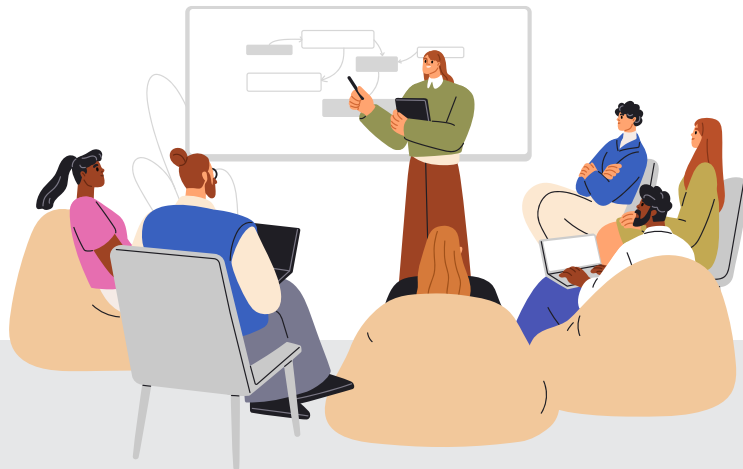
Although Camden is a resource-rich borough with access to excellent universities and higher education opportunities, not enough care-experienced young people are taking advantage of these opportunities. We want to change this and see more of you attend university and succeed in higher education.



Our vision

We want you to feel inspired and confident as you work toward your goals, with access to the opportunities, skills, and support you need to succeed. This means:

- Making it easier for you to understand and access all available education, employment, and training opportunities.
- Creating more tailored options that align with your strengths and ambitions, whether you're interested in university, vocational training, or gaining work experience.
- We support you in overcoming barriers like financial difficulties, low confidence, or lack of experience so that nothing prevents you from achieving your potential.



What we will do:

1. Develop opportunities that enable you to transition from school, college, university and your first job by providing work taster sessions, apprenticeships and employment coaching support.
2. Work with community partners to have opportunities outside the Council for employment.
3. Work with you to develop alternative training and employment opportunities in non-traditional sectors.
4. As an inclusive employer and corporate parent, we are committed to providing opportunities that help you thrive. Through initiatives like our care leaver internship programme, launched in September 2023 with bespoke training and support, we aim to support you into meaningful employment and career pathways. We will continue to review and expand this programme to reach more care-experienced young people like you.
5. We will be more ambitious for you as parents, helping, guiding and supporting you with easily accessible plans and celebrate your successes no matter how small or big.

Priority 5: your home

“We promise that you will have a place to stay which feels safe and secure. We will do our best to find a stable accommodation that meets your needs, connects you to a community, and eventually help you find a place you can call home.”



What you have told us

“Care homes and hostels the children and teens room and space should be much better decorated you need to take into consideration having a nice home and space to come back to will help these young adults and children immensely mentally and they deserve that.”

“I would change the way young people are housed. I think they should have a say in where they want to live.”

“[If I was leader of Camden, I’d] double down on the support for young people... [I’d] offer workshops on cooking, how to decorate your flat when you get it. There are so many people who don’t know these basic things.”

“I’ve had to restart modules countless times and at 22 years old I don’t feel I need to prove my independence any more than I have, provided I’ve been a carer for my ill elderly stepfather before entering pathways.”

“If a young person is in a good place with their foster carer Camden needs to stop forcing them out of those placements.”



The challenge

Having a place to call home is fundamental to feeling secure and building your future. In Camden, we strive to ensure all care-experienced young people have a safe and supportive home that meets their individual needs. Most of you live in stable accommodation within or close to your community, and the time you wait for social housing once nominated is significantly shorter than the general population

However, we need to address some key challenges. More young people enter care each year than move into permanent housing, putting pressure on our resources. Some face long waits or placements that don't fully meet their needs, while others feel unprepared for independence when they leave care. We also recognise that not all of you are ready to manage social or private tenancies due to complex challenges linked to past trauma, and we need to rethink how we can support you when that's the case.



Our vision

We want every care-experienced young person to feel at home in a safe, stable, and supportive home. Whether staying with your family, a foster family, a residential home, semi-independent accommodation, or transitioning to your place, we will ensure your home supports your personal growth and connection to your local community.

We will work hard to improve our housing pathways and tailor them to your needs to achieve this. We will also enhance your support for preparing for independence and continue to listen to your feedback on how we can find you a place to call home. We want you to be financially independent and will support you with developing your financial literacy and maximising your income through welfare benefits.



What we will do:

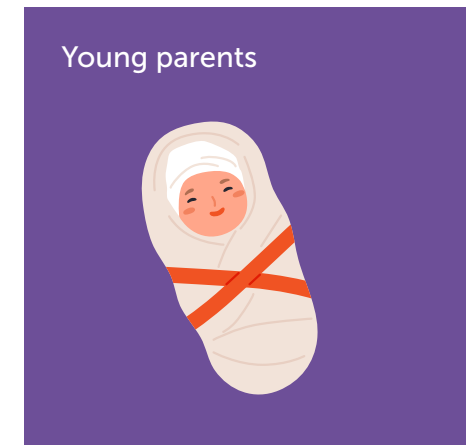
1. Try and support you to remain with your family or friends when it is safe to do so.
2. Continue to recruit foster carers who look like you and can support you with your cultural and identity needs.
3. We will work to have group settings which are modernised and enable you to thrive.
4. Prepare you for independence and support you with moves.
5. Actively involve you wherever we can in deciding a plan for where you live.



Our priority cohorts

We know that everyone's experience of care is different, and that some of you may face extra challenges because of your specific circumstances. That's why, as part of this strategy, we're focusing on four priority groups of young people who may need additional support. This doesn't mean that others are less important—this strategy is for every care-experienced young person and we love all of you equally. But by paying extra attention to the specific needs of these groups, we can make sure no one is left behind.

These are our priority cohorts:



For each of these groups, we've set out clear actions to improve the support available and make sure you get the help you need to thrive.

Priority cohort 1: unaccompanied and separated children and young people



If you've arrived in the UK without your family, we know how much you've already been through. You may be dealing with the effects of trauma, trying to learn a new language, and adjusting to a new culture, all while worrying

about your immigration status. Too often, these challenges mean you don't get the proper support fast enough, and we know we need to do better.

Our plan:

1. We will provide placements that reflect your cultural background and ensure that you have interpreters when needed to feel understood and supported. When we cannot provide a cultural match, we will work with your carer to ensure they understand your cultural needs and help you to maintain your identity.
2. We will train foster carers, social workers, and other professionals to understand your unique needs and how trauma may affect you.
3. We will work with national partners to push for faster and more transparent immigration processes, reducing the uncertainty that can cause extra stress.
4. We will expand our health and wellbeing offer in a way that is tailored to your specific needs.
5. We will ensure you can access interpreters and interpret information on our digital media platforms (Pocket PA) and Mind of My Own.

Priority cohort 2: young people requiring safe and secure transitions



We know that growing up and transitioning into adulthood can bring extra challenges if you have support needs. As your corporate parent, we want to make this transition smoother. We will start planning for your transitions earlier by having conversations with adult's social care colleagues and involving you in this. Sometimes,

the support will be provided via your personal advisor, who will help you access community services, and sometimes, you may need support from adult services. In Camden, we've heard from you and those who support you that we haven't always done this well. Some of you have told us that moving from children's to adult's

services feels confusing or uncertain, and the support available doesn't always match what you need to thrive. Your social workers and personal advisors want to provide you with the best support possible, but they've told us they sometimes struggle to navigate the adult services system. We are working internally on making this more explicit and less fragmented. We know how important it is to ensure you feel supported, understood, and ready for the future, and we are determined to do better.

Our plan:

1. We will work with adult services to create stronger joint protocols, ensuring that children's and adult's services work together to provide smoother transitions.
2. We will offer additional training for social workers and personal advisors in children's and adult's services, so they feel confident that they have the right skills and knowledge to support you.
3. We will ensure that conversations between children's and adult's services take place as early as possible and appropriate so that we can better plan for your needs as you transition into adulthood.

Priority cohort 3: children and young people with experience of the justice system and at risk of exploitation in the community



If you've been involved in the youth justice system or experienced exploitation, we understand how worrying and complicated these situations can be. Too often, young people in these circumstances can face stigma, feel misunderstood, or find it hard to access

the proper support. In Camden, we want to ensure that when you leave the justice system or have experienced coercion, we support you in the right way to break the cycle of harm and help you build a better future.

Our plan:

1. Our Youth Justice Service will work with you to continue providing tailored support through peer mentoring or specialist support services such as Evolve, which helps young people exit gangs safely. We are committed to diverting you from involvement with the youth justice system and supporting your positive engagement in community activities through our youth hubs and community projects.
2. We will work with the National Probation Services, so they have a better understanding of your needs.
3. We will visit you if you are in custody and work with you and the National Probation or Youth Justice Service to ensure you have a clear plan for reintegrating into the community.
4. We will provide financial support when you are in custody to ensure you can buy your essential items.
5. We will work with prisons and youth offending institutions to ensure that they consider your emotional well-being needs.
6. We will provide you with housing that is appropriate to your needs.
7. When you leave the justice system, we will work with you to engage with education, training and employment to obtain stable housing.

Priority cohort 4: young parents



Being a parent is a challenging, although rewarding, life experience. We recognise that children thrive best when parents can access help and support with their parenting. We are committed to reducing intergenerational care cycles. If you become a young parent, we know that raising a child while managing life

can feel overwhelming. Many young parents with care-experience have told us they don't always feel judged reasonably or supported enough. We want to change that by ensuring you can access the right help when and where needed.

Our plan:

1. We will work with housing services to ensure you, and your family have a stable and supportive place to live with your child.
2. We will increase access to parenting programmes and peer networks through our family hubs, which will help you build confidence and connect with others in similar situations.
3. We will improve access to mental health and well-being support so you can care for yourself while being your best parent.
4. If you need extra help, we will work with you to identify how you can be supported, including having support from an experienced foster carer or community child-minding support if this is needed.
5. We want to ensure that you can continue to achieve your life goals. So, if you are in education, training, or employment, we will help you access nursery or child-minding support for your child.
6. We will work with the Integrated Care Board to support you jointly with health partners.
7. We will provide you with a young parent package to purchase baby equipment, such as a cot and a buggy.

Definitions



In Camden, we use the term “care-experienced” to refer to young people who have been in care at some point during their childhood. This reflects updated language that has been shaped by the care-experienced community, who have expressed a preference for this term over “care leavers.” While “care leavers” is still used in legislation, such as the Children Act 1989, Leaving Care Act 2000, and Children and Social Work Act 2017, we intentionally use “care-experienced” to better reflect the broader, lifelong impact of being in care.

For this strategy, “care-experienced” applies to those entitled to services under the above laws. This includes children in care and young people leaving care but does not extend to adopted children, as their support falls under separate legislation in the Adoption Act 2000.

Additionally, some of the services described in this strategy are specific to young people who have been in the care of Camden, where we are your corporate parent. Those of you who were in the care of other local authorities may be unable to access every service outlined here. Still, we will work with you to ensure you can access the support available through your responsible local authority.

We also acknowledge that care-experience is not simply a legal category—it’s a part of a person’s identity that can shape their life in many ways. Recognising care-experience as a lifelong characteristic allows us to take a broader view and ensure that our support, policies, and services are responsive to the unique experiences and needs of care-experienced individuals at all stages of life.

Camden's care-experienced children and young people

Camden's children-in-care

214

There were 214 children in Camden's care (children looked after) as of March 2024. The rate of children in care in Camden (59.1 per 10,000) was lower than the national (70) and inner London (65) averages. A trend dating back to 2013/14.

10+ years ↑

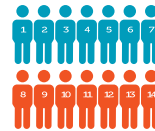
Most of our children in care are aged 10 and above, with the 16+ age group being the largest cohort (33%).



The majority of our children are from Black, Asian and other ethnic backgrounds (63%), and there are significant overrepresentations from Black African, Pakistani, White Irish, and other ethnic and mixed backgrounds. This is partly because of the relatively large amount of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors (18%).

118

118 children ceased to be in our care during 2023/24.



14 children were identified as having a substance misuse problem. For the fifth consecutive year, 100% of children with an identified issue received an intervention.



In 2023/24, the average Attainment 8 score for Camden's children in care decreased for the fourth consecutive year to 10.3. This compares to the 2022/23 national scores (19.4) and inner London (21.5).



17% of our children in care are placed more than 20 miles from home. This means 83% of our children in care are placed within 20 miles of their home. Due to the small size of our borough and the high number of surrounding boroughs, we find this a more helpful performance indicator than the percentage of children in care placed out of the borough.



55.6% of our children in the care population are male.

Camden's care-experienced young people

8% ↓

The percentage of Camden care-experienced young people (care leavers) in education, training or employment aged 19, 20, and 21 in 2023/24 is 62%, a decrease of 8% compared to the previous year. However, this is significantly above national averages (56.8%) and inner London (57%) averages.



We regularly contact 89% of our care-experienced young people aged 19, 20, and 21. This is statistically in line with our last four years.



88.5% of Camden's care-experienced young people of all ages were deemed to live in suitable accommodation.



6.4% of former relevant care leavers ages 19-21 were in higher education. This is below the national average of 7% and the inner London average of 9%

330

At the end of the period (March 2024), 330 care leavers aged 18+ were allocated for social work or personal advisor support. This figure has decreased over the last few years, with 361 in 22/23, 394 in 21/22, and 393 in 20/21.

Governance: driving collaboration and accountability



In Camden, we are committed to creating a culture where every partner embraces their role as a corporate parent. Effective governance ensures you have the care, opportunities, and support you need to thrive. Over the next three years, we will evolve our governance arrangements to ensure this strategy translates into meaningful action. The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) will be the central hub for collaboration and accountability, bringing together key decision-makers from health, housing, education, and other vital services.

A key part of this change will be creating dedicated spaces on the CPB for care-experienced young people. As board members, you will lead in holding us accountable for delivering on our promises, ensuring that your voices are heard, and your perspectives shape our decisions. We will provide training and ongoing support to help you thrive in this role, including opportunities to build confidence, public speaking, and leadership skills.

We will deliver the changes that matter most by listening to your feedback and ensuring your voices are central to our work.

Taking the strategy forward: a roadmap for change



This strategy is a roadmap for change, setting out clear actions to improve the support and opportunities available to you. To make it a reality, we've developed an implementation plan (see Appendix) that outlines specific actions, timelines, and responsibilities for each part of the strategy and ways we will measure the changes we want to see. It takes a village to raise a child, and the delivery of this strategy will require ambitious and persistent input from our foster carers, key-workers, virtual school staff, health colleagues, social workers and personal advisors. Our frontline staff love and care for our children daily, and tirelessly remain committed to ensuring they have the best outcomes.

The Corporate Parenting Board will oversee delivery, ensuring that progress is regularly reviewed, and updates are shared with you and our partners. With care-experienced young people joining the CPB, your feedback will play a central role in holding us to account for the commitments we've made.

Corporate parenting is everybody's business. By collaborating with schools, health services, housing providers, and community organisations, we can provide the comprehensive support you deserve.

