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# SPECTRA

AMBITIOUS TOGETHER

Day Month Year



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Natalie Latham



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# WHAT IS THE CARE LEAVER COVENANT?

**The Covenant is a promise made by private, public or voluntary organisations to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them to live independently.**

**Keep on Caring Strategy 2016**

**The programme is funded by the Department of Education (Government) and delivered by Spectra First Ltd.**

# Changing the image of care leavers

## Spectra First Ltd.

Spectra First's roots are in managing supported residential care - we have a deep understanding of the challenges and disadvantages that the care experienced face in achieving positive outcomes and living fulfilling lives.

Now we are working with organisations to build social value into their operations, with a particular focus on helping care experienced and under-served young people.

Our mission is to change the way care experienced young people are perceived, from 'problematic' to 'enriching'.



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# ...all young people leaving care should be better prepared to live independently...



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- Setting out in law for the first time what it means for a local authority to be a good corporate parent;
- introducing a new legal duty on local authorities to consult on, and publish information about services for care leavers
- extending existing entitlements so that all care leavers will be able to access support from a local authority Personal Adviser to age 25 and;

**Embedding the corporate parenting responsibility across society – Covenant**

# How the “state” as “corporate parents” will support care leavers to achieve 5 outcomes:



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## INDEPENDENT LIVING

Care leavers are better prepared & supported to live independently

## EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING

Care leavers have improved access to employment, education & training

## SAFETY & SECURITY

Care leavers experience stability in life & feeling safe & secure

## HEALTH SUPPORT

Care leavers have improved access to health & emotional support

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

Care leavers achieve financial stability



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# Live Projects



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# National Initiatives

Banking

DWP

Housing

MOJ

Universities DfE/NNECL/CSJ



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# Our Further and Higher Education Strategy



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# STUDENT



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**Student** is the focus on the widening access, participation and inclusion elements (full student lifecycle), based around the expectations of the OfS, the **DfE Principles** and the outputs of **NNECL** and **Centre for Social Justice**.

This pillar invites HEIs to look at their current provision and should there be a need and willingness, build from Buttle with new information, advice and guidance.



# EMPLOYMENT



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**Employment** is the way in which the HEI might be able to creatively respond as an employer.

From application support, or adapted applications and mentoring - should an individual self-declare – to internships, work experience, apprenticeships or traineeships for care leavers.

This is very much open for institutional specific responses, but we believe that every HEI is in a strong position through supporting care leavers as students to translate aspects of this to supporting them as employees.

# COMMUNITY



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**Community** takes the focus slightly outside of the HEI and looks at its relationship and engagement with the local community. This could be in the form of student clinics, talk series or open events etc. and considering how this information is publicised to a care leaving audience and how this might be augmented to enhance the reach and ultimately access – we are not asking for new initiatives, but a focus on what is already there and how we can support the care leaving audience to access this.

## End of June 2019

- Establish a whole institution working group including 'student voice'
- Review Care Leaver Covenant commitments
- Secure senior management buy-in for the Care Leaver Covenant
- Complete Care Leaver Covenant paperwork
- Gain the signature of the Vice Chancellor or Principal
- Audit existing offers to care leavers throughout the student life cycle and for care leavers in the local community
- Consult with care leavers, charities and care leaving teams.

# Action Plan...



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## By August 2019

- Develop revised offer and new opportunities to fill gaps in provision
- Develop internships for care leavers in the community and student care leavers
- Liaise with Spectra First over marketing your offer on the Care Leaver Covenant website and app.

## By October 2019

- Market and celebrate new and revised offer during national Care Leavers' Week.

## By April 2020

- Monitor implementation of the offer.

# Given that there is no “blue print” ...



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- how can institutions creatively respond to the care leaver agenda through the Covenant?
- How can the support of care leavers become a whole institution priority?
- What more needs to be done to support care leavers in HE?
- Where is the best practice?



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