



National Care Leavers' Week 2010

KEEP DREAMING

Janet Rich on what needs to be done to ensure the hopes and aspirations of care leavers are met

In his question and answer session with care leavers, filmed for National Care Leavers' Week, children's minister Tim Loughton talked openly about the need for every department, including his own, to fight for the budgets they needed and justify every penny that was spent. The sector is holding its breath until the full details of the forthcoming spending review are announced, and services have already been axed across the country in anticipation of what is to come.

It is important that Loughton remembers, when fighting the corner for care leavers, and for all children in care, that the relationship between a looked-after child and the authority that decides to take over responsibility for their upbringing is absolutely unique among public services. No other connection between citizen and state combines the necessity of doing something profoundly harmful – separating a child from their birth family – with the necessity and desire to do something good: provide that child with better opportunities and life chances than they would have had had the state not intervened.

Fighting for that unique relationship

No other public service attempts to replace such a unique bond as that which binds a parent and child together with a set of administrative arrangements that will impact on that individual for the rest of their life. Growing up shapes who we are and growing up in care can be a source of immense warmth, opportunity and respite, or of anxiety, turbulence and distress. That unique relationship is something the sector expects Loughton to fight for. Improving the experience of being a child in care or a care leaver is not all about money, but funding cuts will influence decision-making, potentially reducing still further the life chances and opportunities for care leavers.

National Care Leavers' Week this year focuses



National Care Leavers' Week will focus on enabling care leavers to be all they want to be

on dreams and aspirations, on supporting and enabling care leavers to be all that they want to be, and believing in them when they have lost belief in themselves. This year's *National Care Leavers' Week* magazine is full of personal stories spanning generations of care leavers. The themes that unite them are a search for identity and belonging, aspiration to achieve and determination to give back something to others.

David Akinsanya, who chaired the question and answer session with the children's minister, sees depressingly little change in some aspects of leaving care since he left the system more years ago than he cares to remember. Kyle Simmons on the other hand has a message of hope for future care leavers and wants to fight the system with positivity, while Jeff and Marc are about to embark on careers as chefs after completing apprenticeships with Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Foundation.

I hope you find this supplement useful and it inspires you to ensure care leavers receive the support they desperately need.

Janet Rich, trustee, *The Care Leavers' Foundation*

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KAY-JAY KEEPS DREAMING

Pop singer and care leaver Kay-Jay wrote the song *Keep Dreaming* to offer a positive message to young people, which is why it has been used as the title of this year's National Care Leavers' Week

Kyle (Kay-Jay) Simmons, a 21-year-old student at East15 Acting School, wants all care leavers to follow their dreams, and with the publicity he has gained from his first single *Keep Dreaming*, he wants to be a role model for others to follow.

Kyle launched his single with a high-quality professional video, which he was able to produce with the assistance of the ITV Fixers programme and performed live on stage in August at The London Studios as part of the 90-minute spectacular *The Big Fix Live!*, which was streamed live on itv.com.

ITV Fixers, with vinspired.com, challenges people aged between 16 and 25 to think about issues that concern them and gives them support and practical help to fix the problem. Since 2008, more than 4,000 young people have become "Fixers" and have embarked on more than 500 projects. They have made films, recorded music, built websites, held events, lobbied councils, and much more. A number of "Fixers" have lived in care and have undertaken projects to encourage and inspire other care leavers.

In addition to full-time study and working to get his musical career off the ground, Kyle has been working directly with children who are still in care, hoping to influence them to stay on the straight and narrow. Kyle saw many of his good friends derailed and lost to drugs or crime as he grew up and believes younger looked-after children need strong role models that they can relate to to counter the stereotypes and navigate the pitfalls of growing up as a child separated from family. Kyle has delivered two workshops this year for the charity Siblings Together and would like to continue to develop this aspect of his career alongside songwriting and performing.

Kyle's second release *Miss You* is launched this month. Kyle will also perform at the National Leaving Care Awards on 27 October, and has this message to share with care leavers: "As you all know it is hard for many young people to try and find their place in today's society, with celebrity culture and many different factors that tell you what you should be and not what you want to be.

"One of my hardest challenges growing up was to be who I wanted to be and to try and attain my



Kay-Jay performing his song *Keep Dreaming*

dreams. Social peer pressure told me as I am in care I'm a nobody and will amount to nothing. Let me tell you now, this is not true.

"Any person in care with the right love and care can become tomorrow's person of influence. That's why it's up to you to keep dreaming, and never stop dreaming and never let anyone stop you from being the person you're meant to be.

"So keep going – prove everyone wrong. Let's break the mould and make our lives positive, you have the power and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. We have the power to prove them wrong with good."

Kyle's aspirational anthem gave us the title for National Care Leavers' Week this year. So how did he come to pen this song?

"I had a lot of experiences when I left care of promises being broken, things not being put in place. I kept thinking how can they expect people to go for what they want in life and succeed when the service are so quick to mess you around. I was already then working on a diss on the system but that's all it was, a diss, and I felt I should be helping other people gain confidence who are in my position also and not set a negative example. So I was thinking about the past and what some staff and people used to say to me, they used to tell me to 'keep dreaming' but in the condescending way. So then I thought why can't that same message be flipped on its head and that's where the inspiration came from. I also wanted to make the song quite raw because it is aimed at younger people and is for those in care and not in it, for anyone that has suffered and finds it hard to go on."

Keep Dreaming sends a positive message to all those preparing to leave care, and a salutary one to professionals working with them. It shows that everyone has dreams they want to follow, and children in care are no different. As professionals we should be advocating for those we have the privilege to look after, and going the extra mile for them. With boxes to tick and budgets to be cut, it isn't always easy to be that person who goes the extra mile and remember what our dreams were when we first set out on our careers.

● View the video for *Keep Dreaming* at www.nationalcareleaversweek.com or visit Kyle's own site http://kayjaye15.bandzoogle.com/fr_home.cfm



We have the power to prove them wrong with good"

HOW WAS YOUR DAY: VOICES FROM WALES ON LEAVING CARE

A survey of Welsh care leavers reveals some of the difficulties they faced and hopes to offer solutions to these problems in the future

Voices from Care the advocacy and training organisation in Wales for children in and leaving care published a report earlier this year in conjunction with Cardiff University called *How Was Your Day?* Based on reflective life histories of a group of care leavers aged between 16 and 25, the study aimed to use historic data to piece together a picture of common themes that affected a range of looked-after children in varied circumstances at different key stages in their lives.

Themes that emerged around leaving care and young adulthood included the difficulties faced by care leavers including isolation, debt and poverty and also highlighted some of the more positive aspects for care leavers who managed to come through the initial shock of becoming a care leaver at such a young age. The sample all left care between 16 and 18 years of age. Some had never experienced stability in care and had this for the first time when they were given their own tenancy, although for others early tenancies were problematic and insecure.

At the time of the interviews, 50 per cent of the sample were unemployed, although almost a third were in further or higher education and others had good employment records. Being able to look back, many of the participants were able to reflect that their time in care had overall improved their lives. Although they had some negative experiences of the care system and saw clear areas for improvement, they were able to recognise that what the care system had taken them away from had been so much worse.

As they got older and put the trauma of transition behind them, many had reached a place where they wanted to begin to make sense of their lives and gain a clearer sense of identity

and belonging. Access to in-care files was an important part of recapturing an understanding of where they had come from and how they had become who they were, however for many of those interviewed there were significant barriers around obtaining files.

Difficulties around receiving suitable housing with the right level of support and getting access to emotional support came out, and having a good relationship with at least one professional who they felt knew them, understood them and stuck by them through the period of transition

was seen to be a key factor in helping them make it through. Gaining emotional support through more formal channels was more difficult. The fact that additional support was cut off to those age 21 and over unless they were in education was identified as a problem, as by definition those not in education or employment were more likely to need that ongoing support. Participants for whom this was a particular issue "had mental health difficulties but did not seem to have met the threshold for adult services".

An event due to be hosted in December by Helen Mary Jones, deputy leader of Plaid



Many care leavers felt isolated

Cymru and party spokesperson for health and social services, will bring together key players from housing, mental health and leaving care services to discuss these issues and attempt to bring forward lasting solutions. Details are available at www.nationalcareleaversweek.org and from Carol Floris at Voices from Care.

● A copy of the full report is available from Sally Holland at Cardiff University hollands@cf.ac.uk. Children in Wales who require advice and advocacy should also get in touch with Voices from Care by visiting www.vfcc.org.uk

CARE LEAVER AWARENESS ON THE STREET

Chris Simpson has taken to the streets to educate the public about the needs of those leaving care

One of the many aspirations of National Care Leavers' Week is to raise public awareness of issues facing children in care, an invisible population, and a population often associated with stereotypical images of no hopers. As we know this is far from the truth and one of the real champions of National Care Leavers' Week in raising public awareness is Chris Simpson. An executive member for the Care Leavers Association, 48-year-old Chris has set up stall outside his local supermarket in Grantham for the past three years. What reaction does he get from the public when he talks to them about care leavers?

"I have always been passionate about the rights

and feelings of those who live, and have lived, in the state care system, a subject that wider society has little understanding about.

"I set up my first small stand during National Care Leavers Week 2007. I had published the event in my local press and got a lot of interest. I found that people often had a story to tell and questions to ask. People who I knew never realised that I had lived in care.

"Most people that I was speaking to knew nothing of the challenges that people in care and care leavers face even today. I believe it is so important to raise awareness about care leavers and challenge the prejudices that we care leavers face.

I have appeared on BBC Lincolnshire to speak about my experience of leaving care – nerve-racking but enjoyable. Best of all one of my foster dads got in touch to say he had read the article and it had made him really proud and full of admiration. This year I will be doing a sponsored swim on Saturday 30 October and setting up my stall again at a location in Grantham, continuing to spread the word about the challenges faced by care leavers of all ages."

● To sponsor Chris or find out where you can visit him in Grantham during National Care Leavers' Week, contact the Care Leavers Association at www.careleavers.com



Preparations for this year's National Care Leavers' Week began just after the general election in May, which brought a coalition government to power on the back of the worst recession in a generation. As we go to press, projects, programmes and departments across the country are awaiting with trepidation the outcome of the autumn spending review and the cuts in public services that are expected to reverberate across the country.

Against this backdrop we invited children's minister Tim Loughton to meet a group of care leavers and find out about their concerns for their own lives and the future of leaving care services. Loughton faced five care leavers aged between 17 and 23 in a session filmed for National Care Leavers' Week by *Children & Young People Now*. The session followed a day-long workshop in which a larger group of care leavers debated the similarities and the differences in the problems that they faced in local authorities across the country, and narrowed down their concerns to five main issues that they put to the minister.

HOW THE SYSTEM HAS CHANGED

The sessions were steered by presenter and documentary filmmaker David Akinsanya, himself a care leaver and a well-respected face on television for his coverage of social issues, including our care system. Akinsanya has an affinity with young people. He plays down the significance of this ability, but has himself informally fostered troubled care leavers, and teaches at a Saturday school project in an outer-London borough where the streets are tough and attainment is low.

Asked what had changed since his own time in care, Akinsanya reflected on care as he remembered it as a mixed blessing. He recalls a stable foster placement with "one of those women who cared from the bottom of her heart, the kind that we have scared away now forever as fostering has

TIME FOR ANSWERS

Broadcaster and care leaver **David Akinsanya** recently chaired a debate featuring children's minister **Tim Loughton** about the future of leaving care services. Akinsanya shares his thoughts on what needs to change

become more professionalised". While similar problems faced care leavers then, as now, there was very little concept of transitions, or any responsibility on the state to concern themselves with what happened to children once they exited the care system "in my day they would contain us, throw us out and then we would go to prison", says Akinsanya. He highlights big changes in attitudes around aspiration, access to education and the notion of the state as a corporate parent.

CLINICAL APPROACH TO PARENTING

"Access to education is definitely one of the areas that has improved enormously. There are still problems, and we know that some care leavers get a raw deal, depending on which local authority area they live in. But when I was in care no one was thinking about university for care leavers. It just didn't happen," says Akinsanya.

"For myself, I was ambitious, and determined. I wanted to be an actor then and I got a scholarship to the Italia Conti School, a famous acting school in London. The deal was that the school contributed half your fees and your parents paid the rest. In those days we used to call our social services director our 'dad' – it was a bit of a joke – but there was no way my social services were contributing anything to help me get an education



beyond 16. Now there are summer schools and taster days and all sorts of initiatives to encourage children in care to think about university as part of their future. There is a whole new attitude towards giving kids in care something to aspire to, yet it is all very clinical and very 'corporate'. We have the idea of 'corporate parenting' yet who really wants those achievements for a looked-after child, wants them in a way that a parent would? A civil servant or a minister can't be a parent to a child in care.

"So the system has moved on, in many ways for the better, but it saddens me that certain things haven't been dealt with – like the whole issue of children leaving care and going straight into the welfare benefits system. The system doesn't allow for the fact that the life of care leavers is different to other people's. We spend money taking these kids away from their families to 'safeguard' them but it isn't followed through. No-one is interested in investing money in them when they are older teens and people are starting to ask why do we take these kids away and make them worse than if they had stayed with their parents?"

EDUCATION IS A PASSPORT TO A BETTER LIFE

Akinsanya has come a long way since he left care and has seen the system itself move on, but he remains bemused about the apparently irrational cuts already taking place before the spending review has even been announced. "The Saturday school I was teaching at has been axed. Another London borough I work with had a brilliant after-school club that was pulling in all the hardest to reach kids and giving them proper teaching, computers, maths, geography, the lot. Now the service has been 'reconfigured' to save money and the same kids are getting just one or two hours support in their own homes with half of the resources and none of the structure. We know these programmes work; we know that education is the one

thing that will give many kids from care, and other disadvantaged groups, a passport to a better life, and they will be a fraction of the cost to society in the future."

And if he could change just two things about the care system to improve life for care leavers?

"The first would be making it less about buying services for children and more about serving these

children and meeting their needs. It isn't just about money, children in care are traded like commodities and decisions are being made for the wrong reasons. Second, I would ensure they were emotionally and educationally prepared before I would let them go. When you think of your children flying the nest you would not let your own child go if one of their wings was broken."

HEAR TIM LOUGHTON ANSWER CARE LEAVERS' QUESTIONS

Ten years on from the Children (Leaving Care) Act and two years on from the Children and Young Person's Act 2008, leaving care services have come a long way. Yet for many care leavers the quality of support they receive is variable.

As part of National Care Leavers' Week 2010, we wanted to give the new coalition government an opportunity to outline its plans for children leaving care. In conjunction with *Children & Young People Now*, five care leavers were invited to put their questions to children's minister Tim Loughton in a filmed question and answers debate.

The young people chose to raise the following questions: Under your government will you remove all care leavers from the benefits trap? How seriously do you take participation and is it an easy target for cuts? Why are you already cutting projects that help us like Aim Higher and summer schools? Will you make a fairer system so that care leavers are entitled to the same support, wherever they live in the country? How can you ensure social workers ignite aspirations for all care leavers?

You can watch the minister's response to the questions at www.cypnow.co.uk. This question and answer session was the first in a series of regular meetings in which Loughton has agreed to provide feedback on the issues he has promised to follow up and listen to the concerns of care leavers.

"The problem is with the education of social workers. My social worker didn't even know who you were"

Joe, care leaver

"I should feel like I am the only child that the local authority is looking after. It's not happening"

Stacy, care leaver

"We should only be bringing children into care for two reasons. Because there is a danger to them if they stay where they are, and if we are able to give them a better outcome and better prospect than if they stay where they are"

Tim Loughton, children's minister

Gilmar Blackwood loves inventing. It's a hard life trying to be a creative engineer and get concepts from design stage to prototype and then to a market. Gilmar's first product that he hopes to find a commercial niche for is his Nebula table lamp, a very contemporary design with a classic shape and feel about it.

"Ever since I was a teenager I was always coming up with ideas to make a difference with imaginative inventions. Other people were dreaming of flying cars and things you would only see in cartoons but I always thought of a way to make it sound realistic. In my final year of secondary education my technology teacher told me that creative people change the world. When I came out of secondary school I came up with an action plan to help me go to university by the age of 19. I knew that academic skill wasn't my greatest strength so in my early college years I improved my creative skills by way of the arts and design path. I always liked to showcase my skills as an artist and loved getting praised for it.

"Towards my last college year I focused on technical design and engineering; every project was a challenge for me. Even though I didn't learn engineering from the course, I would often study it in my spare time and then use this knowledge when working on my projects. Being an artist allows me to express myself with different materials. This led me to pursue a degree in product and furniture design because that's what I was creating. I didn't realise I was really creating new things until I was at an exhibition and someone said 'how much do you want for you lamp?'"

WORTH THE HARD WORK

"When I got to the second year of my degree I was working on getting intellectual property and copyrights. I was granted two design rights of ownership for my lighting products. It hasn't been easy getting this little bit of success and I had to work many long hours to get the cash to buy the materials for the project. I had to do a lot of research to acquire the information I needed to assemble the electronic components to make the idea work. I had to keep the research and development cost to a minimum so not to spend what little I had. My other obstacle was the intellectual patent law. It took a lot of time for me to learn this vital information but in the end it was worth it. I have my prototype and I can now take it to exhibitions or manufacturers in the hope of getting noticed and getting a production contract.

"I love designing and I know I have a talent. At the moment I work 12 hours a week at the local supermarket. Sometimes they can give me a few extra hours. I have debts for rent and other housing costs and I keep getting told that I should go onto Jobseeker's Allowance as I would be better off financially. I want to work and support myself. I am proud of my achievements. I know that one day I will achieve my dream and be able to support myself through design."

● *If you would like to purchase one of Gilmar's Nebula lamps contact The Care Leavers' Foundation and we will put you in touch*

GILMAR'S ILLUMINATING DESIGNS

Young care leaver Gilmar Blackwood was determined to produce his innovative design for a table lamp. By pushing himself to go to university, saving money for the materials and gaining a Care Leavers' Foundation grant, he was able to achieve his dream



In my last year of secondary education my technology teacher told me that creative people change the world"



Gilmar Blackwood funded the prototype of his Nebula lamp himself

CARE LEAVERS WHO DEFIED THE ODDS

During this year's National Care Leavers' Week, the first National Leaving Care Awards will honour the achievements of outstanding young care leavers and the carers who look after them

Care Matters Partnership, running the main conference during National Care Leavers' Week for the second year, is also behind the first National Leaving Care Awards. The awards stay true to this year's theme of dreams and aspirations, and stay true to the spirit of this year's National Care Leavers' Week magazine, where every article is about care leavers achieving their goals or making a difference for others in care. Care Matters Partnership is run by chief executive and care leaver Matthew Huggins. The awards are his brainchild and a dream he has held for many years.

We can't tell you who the winners are yet. There are just a few seats left at the awards ceremony being held at the fabulous Vinopolis in central London, and you can still book a place at www.carematterspartnership.co.uk/young/leaving_care. There are 15 award categories, ranging from outstanding young campaigner to outstanding corporate parent, and the awards recognise courage, personal journeys, determination and commitment from individual care leavers and the people and services supporting them.



Diane-Louise Jordan will host the national awards

Susanna Cheal OBE chaired the judging panel, which was made up of professionals, carers and care leavers. The judging took place in two stages and on the final day the panel had to choose from just five shortlisted entries in each category. Cheal

says: "We were delighted to see the array of talent and the number of outstanding nominations for people who had walked the extra mile for young people in vulnerable circumstances. It is heartening that when we hear so many tragic stories about lives in care that such a lot of effort is being made for young people all over the country. The awards demonstrate hope, promote aspiration and demonstrate the quality of work being done."

The hardest part of any awards process is creating losers as well as winners, however we genuinely felt that in this process every entrant was a potential winner. Without detracting from those really outstanding nominees who will be recognised on the night, there is a sense that awards like these are accepted symbolically on behalf of all care leavers, all those who struggle and succeed, all those who may not succeed but continue to try, and all the adults that journey with them on what are often difficult journeys through care and into young adulthood.

The awards ceremony will be hosted by TV presenter Diane-Louise Jordan and we expect to welcome other high profile celebrities on the night.

ONLINE COMMUNITY OFFERS SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CARERS

Providing online support and chairing a foster care panel seem a million miles from Michael Dennis's beginnings in and out of care.

Fostercare World – a Mumsnet for carers – is an online support service with a difference. It was set up by care leaver Michael who recognised the need for a place where carers could share issues and support each other without feeling monitored or criticised, and that such a service, being both supportive and anonymous, could make a real difference in the lives of the children that they were looking after.

This project has enabled Michael to bring together his own care experience, the experience of his partner who is a supporting social worker working face-to-face with the difficulties faced by foster carers on a daily basis and his professional skills as an IT expert and web designer. The result is a bright, user friendly site where carers can meet

openly or anonymously and tap into each others' knowledge for support.

Michael drifted for a while after leaving school with few exams and dropped out of higher education after a difficult time. He quickly found his professional niche and was working full-time in IT when he decided that he wanted to make a difference to the lives of children in care. In 2005 the idea for Fostering World was born and in 2008 it became a reality. Launched a little ahead of its time as fewer carers were regular internet users back then, it is now gaining a growing following.

Michael is now a parent of three children and very happy with his life. However, looking back, if he had his way he would "change everything about the system". He views the quality of social work and caring relationships as absolutely key to a child's experience of care and believes a good

relationship can make an enormous difference. Another problem identified by Michael is for children who have a number of periods in care and are returned to their birth family in between these episodes. He says: "Given the choice I would have stayed in care, but no one ever asked me." Michael was returned home shortly before he was 16, and as a result received no leaving care service. Although eligibility criteria for receiving support in a situation like this have changed, Michael believes it is still a loophole.

However, he is now delighted to be giving something back and was recently appointed chair of a fostering panel in the Midlands where he lives. "It's a big responsibility but I know I am up to it," says Michael. "My beginnings were very shaky, but things are good now and I know I am making a difference for others."

● www.fostercareworld.com

BANQUETS ON A BUDGET

Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Foundation has been added as partner of National Care Leavers' Week and is running the Banquet on a Budget event to show care leavers budgeting and cooking skills



relax, feel his way into the role and he'll make his way in the industry big time."

"Jeff is very trustworthy, very genuine, completely honest. He has done fantastically well on the course. He absolutely wants this and he will be a great chef. He's been fantastic and he's going to have a great career in front of him."

Marc said: "It's been quite an experience moving from a little village in Cambridge down to a big city like London. Finding your way to work and making new friends has been difficult with the hours that you work here. It has been hard but it's been well worth the effort."

He added: "My favourite station in the kitchen is pastry because I love putting passion on a plate and I love seeing people's faces light up when they see what they've got for dessert."

Jeff said: "I've never passed anything in my life. School, college, everything – I got kicked out of them all. I needed this opportunity of someone to be there guiding me along the way, giving me that influence, saying you can do this and showing me that I can succeed; that I'm not just that person that everyone keeps saying that I am."

He added: "I can go out there now with a good CV and a good background of cooking knowledge and get myself a job with no problem at all."

At our Banquets on a Budget event on 25 October, 12 care leavers will have the opportunity to cook alongside chefs and students from the Fifteen programme in an action-packed day, run by Fifteen in conjunction with The Care Leavers' Foundation, as part of Care Leavers' Week. Participants aged 16 to 23 will learn budgeting and cooking skills, gain an understanding of how to feed themselves well and how to use fresh ingredients on a budget, find out about the training and qualifications that Fifteen apprentices receive, and participate in a *Ready Steady Cook*-type team event.

● *Recipes from the day's activities will be free to download after the event. Visit www.nationalcareleaversweek.org and for more information about Fifteen Foundation visit www.fifteen.net*

We are delighted to add Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Foundation to our National Care Leavers' Week partners this year. The Fifteen Foundation was established to give young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification and experience working in a top London restaurant. Graduates of Fifteen work hard to learn their trade – this is no easy option – and having Fifteen on their CV alongside their qualification gives them a great start and opens the door to many opportunities. Viewers of the television programmes will be aware of the gruelling process that the apprentice chefs go through in order to become Fifteen graduates.

Jeff and Marc graduated in September from Fifteen's class of 2010 apprenticeship programme. Both are care leavers and both have faced enormous challenges. At their graduation, a spokesperson for Fifteen could not speak highly enough of them, saying: "Marc is great he's absolutely on point most of the time. He's very talkative, he wants the recipes before they even get printed and he's constantly asking things, which is great because he wants to learn. He always wants to make people happy. He doesn't stop. Marc just needs to

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

If you want to attend any events, please visit www.nationalcareleaversweek.org.

Sunday 24 October

Launch of video of care leavers Q&A

Features the children's minister answering questions about the coalition's plans for leaving care services. Presented by David Akinsanya

Monday 25 October

Banquets on a Budget

Action-packed "cooking on a budget day" with an information and training workshop – run by Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Foundation

Tuesday 26 October [tbc]

The second National Care Leavers' Week lecture in association with the Tavistock Clinic

Delivered by Graham Music, author of *Nurturing Natures: Attachment and Children's Emotional, Sociocultural and Brain Development*

Wednesday 27 October

National Leaving Care Keep Dreaming Awards ceremony

Vinopolis, London

Thursday 28 October

National Care Leavers' conference

Planning for Successful Transitions, London

Friday 29 October [venues and dates tbc]

Young People and Money

Training developed by the Financial Services Authority. Shropshire and Kent

Thursday 9 December

National Assembly of Wales "How was Your Day?"

Seminar on improving the lives of care leavers through multi-agency working

As part of National Care Leavers' Week 2010 we are also welcoming a small delegation of care leavers from Care Leavers Ireland. Contact us if you are interested in meeting, hosting, talking to Irish colleagues.

National Care Leavers' Week

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Thanks to all sponsors, supporters and event organisers who continue to make National Care Leavers' Week possible

