



DRIVE FORWARD



Drive Forward Foundation



TRUE or FALSE

- The leaving care process starts at aged 16 – True or False?
- What age you think the average age children stop living with their family?
- Care leavers are in contact with their leaving care team a minimum of once a month. True or False?
- How often do you speak to your family or support network?



Now what if I told you that I was in foster care would that change your thoughts on me ?



Stigma, My Story, Changing Perceptions



Our Vision is a society where all care-experienced people enjoy opportunity, empathy and respect.

Our Mission is to enable care-experienced young people to achieve their potential through sustainable and fulfilling employment.

Our Purpose is to create a model that can be replicated by local authority partners to improve outcomes for care-experienced individuals.



2010

Job Brokerage

Helping London care leavers without professional networks to begin their careers



2012

Foundation

Foundation launched to provide more practical and emotional support to young care leavers



2016

Policy Forum

Established the Drive Forward Policy Forum to drive effective policy change



2010

Launch Early Intervention Programmes

Launch of Breakthrough and Compass to raise aspirations at an earlier stage.

13+

2020

10 Years

Over the past decade we have transformed the lives of over 2,000 young care leavers





What have we found works?

- Tailored and flexible support
- The importance of relationships (consistent, positive, inclusive, persistent)
- Awareness of trauma
- Aspirational support
- Community and belonging



One-to-One Support

Work together with an experienced Employment Consultant to gain the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their career



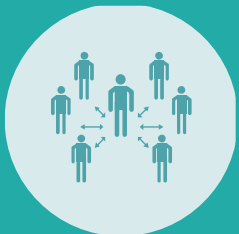
Mentoring

Better navigate the world of work and progress quicker in their career with the help of a professional mentor



Training & Development

Includes skills training like mindful yoga, writing convincing applications, and interview preparation



Exclusive Career Opportunities

Gain access to a pool of exclusive work placement and job opportunities with our partners across London



Care Experienced Networks

Care-experienced young people creating lasting change through peer led networks - FORE (Forward on Racial Equality), Policy Forum, Women's Wellness, Xpression, Breakthrough and Compass



Partnership Working to Create Employment Opportunities





Building Communities

We hope to provide a positive support network for care-experienced young people. We invite our partners to be part of our community and join groups such as book clubs, coffee and connect sessions, social activities and FORE (Forward on Racial Equality) discussions.



Showcase

We host 'Aim Higher' days and invite young people to the offices of our partners. We aim to build understanding of different career paths, create networks and access to opportunities.



Work Experience

Work experience placements provide the opportunity for project work, networking and professional development.



Mentoring

Individuals can sign up for short-term and long-term mentoring to gain industry specific advice and professional guidance to aid the transition into employment.



Fulfilling Employment

We work with partner to create ring-fenced opportunities and tailored recruitment processes in their internship programmes, apprenticeships or entry-level roles.





Drive Forward and CNWL NHS Partnership

“This scheme is very close to my heart. As someone who has experienced care, I know how important it is to have opportunities like these to help care leavers get into work, find a supportive workplace, have the same options open to them as everyone else and break down barriers to help them on the journey to become whoever they want to be. CNWL has played a significant part in my journey and I want others to have the same opportunities. I know that care leavers have so much to offer the NHS; a diverse range of skills and talent; and we in turn can offer them the best possible start in their working life and lots of experience.” **Meera Mistry,**
Associate Director of Partnerships at CNWL

CNWL NHS

- **Commitment from Senior Leadership Team.**
- **Commitment from a dedicated team to host a placement.**
- **Consider composition of the placement, training opportunities and possible rotations.**
- **Progression opportunities after the one-year placement.**

DFF

- **Provide training on workplace support for care-experienced young adults.**
- **Advertise roles to care-experienced young people and prepare candidates.**
- **Ongoing support to successful candidates and access to mentoring scheme.**



Questions?

