

Semi Independent Accommodation Post 2021



Essex County Council
Strategy, Insight & Engagement

Young People's Voice – Engagement Report

October 2020

Appendix 2 of Cabinet Report FP/842/10/20

ESSEX



Research & Insight team
Strategy, Insight & Engagement
Essex County Council

What did we do and why ?

- As part of recommissioning a new service from 2021, ECC wanted to hear from Young People about their experience of SIA accommodation and what it means to them.

Who did we talk to ?

- ECC talked to Care Leavers and USAC Young People, aged 16 -18, including those who have recently moved into SIA and those are looking to move on, aged 18.



Key Themes to test



- Experience of moving into the service and does it meet their needs?
- Young people's support around maintaining their financial stability and having **better life skills to live independently**
- How young people receive the right support to access their local community
- Do Young People in the service receive the right support around poor **mental health**
- What are Young People's aspirations about moving on from the service?





How did we engage?

- During September we carried out an **on-line survey** with Young People currently in SIA accommodation or that have moved on from the service.
- We promoted the survey on-line via current providers, social care teams, Housing related support providers and partnership leads.
- During September and October 2020 we also ran **virtual sessions** with young people in various SIA properties across the County including 5 USAC Young People

zoom

Responses

- We had 6 responses to the on-line survey which were completed on-line and 6 responses that were sent to us via email – total of 12 responses, satisfactory response rate
- We spoke to 10 young people via virtual sessions, in 4 different properties across Essex, including Colchester, Basildon and Harlow
- We engaged with 5 USAC young people, one of which had just been placed into SIA accommodation.
- We engaged with 5 young people who were previously in foster care or moving directly into SIA accommodation.
- We engaged with one young person who had moved on from the service (into HRS accommodation)



What did Young People tell us ?



- 67% felt that they only had a partial involvement in where they were placed, or no influence over the decision. There was a 50/50 split of Young People who advised they had a choice on where they were going to live. However, 67% advised they were comfortable with the accommodation once they were placed.
- Young People in SIA accommodation all felt that their actual accommodation was 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
- All Young People advised that they generally feel well supported by the Support Staff within the service.
- All Young People feel they are encouraged and supported to develop skills to help them live independently, including support around finances and budgeting, cooking, household skills and how to access Employment and Education.
- 82% of Young People felt they were given lots of information on how to access their local community, e.g. transport, health services and activities. 90% would like to receive information about their local community via social media, text or email and 10% would like this shared with them in person by the support staff.



What did Young People tell us - continued



- All Young People advised they feel safe within their accommodation, however, CCTV, support staff being on site and knowing there is someone to contact if a problem is important to them.
- 83% of Young People responded that they do not need any additional support around their mental health needs or were already receiving the support they need.
- Young People expressed they find the freedom the service brings as 'good'
- The main issues Young People find not so good are early curfews and poor internet connectivity
- When looking to move on from the service, most young people want to live independently in their own accommodation, but most felt that continued support would be beneficial as they transition e.g. floating support.



Quotes from Young People

*My Accommodation is
'Home from Home'*

*'I have been happy for
most of the time here –
thank you for the
support'*

*'I struggled with money
– they have helped me
budget and work out
how much I can spend'*

*'I have my own space,
big and airy – and lots
of food'*

*'I am starting College
next week, working with
Animals which I love'*



This report was produced by Essex County Council's
Strategy Insight and Engagement Function

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