

## Social Value/Corporate Social Responsibility Guide 2024

A guide to aid businesses to shape their Social Value offers when tendering for contracts offered by Solihull MBC, and to help direct Corporate Social Responsibility activity. See our Social Value webpage and policy for further information - <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/business/social-value>.

### TOM(s) (Themes, Outcomes and Measures):

<b>SOL4</b>	<b>Initiatives to support care leavers and care experienced young people in –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being better prepared to live independently</li> <li>• Having improved access to employment, education and training</li> <li>• Experiencing stability in their lives and feeling safe and secure</li> <li>• Having improved access to health support</li> <li>• Achieving financial stability</li> </ul>
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### Summary of delivery area:

The Council supports young people who are preparing to leave foster care or a residential children’s home for the first time to set up in their own accommodation. These young people have a great deal to offer. They have often faced adversity early in life and have developed skills, strengths and resilience beyond what may be expected for their age. They also need extra support, given that help from family networks may be limited, finances are likely to be tight and they are more likely to struggle with their mental health.

Young people tell us that small additions to the support they already receive can make a huge difference to their lives, their sense of self-worth and their ability to become the best and most productive and successful adults they can be.

All young people are supported by the Child Asylum and Care Experienced team. They have both a Social Worker and a Personal Advisor until the age of 18 and their Personal Advisor will then continue to offer them practical and emotional support, friendship, advice and assistance up to the age of 25.

### What can we do for you?

- Working with us to offer support to care leavers and care experienced young people will mean Social Workers and / or Personal Advisors will act as the bridge between you and a young person or group of young people
- We will ensure you have the information you need to make a success of your offer

### Case studies/examples:

#### **1. Provide support to young people preparing to leave care so that they have the practical skills that they need to live in their own accommodation.**

- Offer workshops for individuals or groups of young people preparing to leave care to enhance skills in particular areas where you may have expertise such as cooking, DIY or home security.
- Provide equipment for young people moving to their first home such as cooking sets, tableware, tool kits, bedding, carpeting, decorating materials.
- Offer services to help young people make their first homes a good place to live. Decorating, gardening and general repairs to make a new place homely.

**2. Support young people who have care experience to access education, employment and training that meet their needs and acknowledges their strengths.**

- Offer paid internship opportunities for care experienced young people to enable them to explore the world of work and develop their interests.
- Prioritise access to apprenticeships for care experienced young people and offer enhanced mentoring and support to enable them to succeed.
- Recognise the particular skills and experiences that make young people with care experience good employees and be prepared to be flexible with person specifications when considering employment opportunities and support options thereafter.
- Provide equipment such as laptops and course materials to support young people in education and training courses.

**3. Support young people with care experience to feel safe, secure and supported.**

- Offer mentoring to care experienced young people who are entering the world of work or considering taking this step.
- Ensure that enhanced support is available to employees, apprentices and interns with care experience to help them to maintain good mental health. Recognise that those with care experience may be dealing with a lot outside the workplace and make allowances and adjustments for this.

**4. Have improved access to health support and resources.**

- Provide basic health and first aid kits for young people setting up their first homes.
- Provide baby boxes with products and equipment for care experienced young people starting their own families.

**5. Achieving Financial Stability**

- Provide workshops for individual young people with care experience or for groups assisting with financial literacy and budgeting.
- Offer bursaries for young people entering further or higher education.