Moving Foward with Leaving Care 'Future' Planning

Start planning early (age 15)

START leaving care planning from 15 years of age to help a gradual building of skills and supports

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PLAN EARLY to give everyone the time to think about future goals and talk about options

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INVOLVE the young person, carer and other significant people in the young person's life during discussions

Note: update the **goal in ChildStory** to 'leaving care'

Engage with the young person

YOUR PRACTICE SKILLS will help you build rapport and engage with the young person to participate in leaving care planning

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LISTEN to their views and opinions. It'll make it more real if they feel they have a say, after all, it is their plan!

Engage with the carer

ENGAGING THE CARER is essential, support them to support the young person - use 'Leading the Way' to help discussions

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THE CARER'S SUPPORT for the young person will enhance their ability to cope with new challenges - recognise and encourage this effort

Engage with significant others

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS should be included if appropriate, for example someone from their birth family, Education, Health, Justice, the NDIA or anyone else important in the young person's life

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IDENTIFY trusted and positive adults who might play a role in motivation and guidance to build connections and mantain a good support network

Consider all key domains

KEY DOMAINS must be considered in the plan, for example identity and culture family and significant connections, health and education

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LEARNING LIFE SKILLS will benefit a young person and must be considered in the plan. Resources like the 'Living Skills Checklist' and the 'YOU' website can help the young person

Note: prepare for living arrangements at 17. Can they stay on with their carer or family? What local housing pathways do they need to know about?

Review the plan

THINGS CHANGE for young people! The plan will need to be reviewed and updated (at least annually) while in care

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FALLBACK OPTIONS and contingencies should be considered and included in the plan

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REVIEWS and updates to the plan can be made until 25 years of age

Note: follow up and 'check in' with the young person **after they exit care**. Remind them they can come back for help if they need support (until age 25)

Explore financial and other entitlements

FINALISE FINANCIAL SUPPORTS prior to 18 to help with the transition to adulthood - DCJ and CENTRELINK entitlements

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TILA is one-off allowance of up to $1,500 in goods and services and is available for young people between 15 - 25 years

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EXPLORE FURTHER EDUCATION pathways, scholarships and other entitlements, for example the free Safer Drivers Course

Think creatively

THINK CREATIVELY about what young person may need each step of the way

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THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX for options that meet their goals, do they want simialr things to their peers or different things?

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INVEST TIME to explore strengths interests and whatever else is needed to help tailor and personalise the plan

Help establish connections

ENCOURAGING CONNECTIONS with family and community helps build stability and safety and forever networks'

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POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS strengthen identity, trust, confidence, respect and a healthy sense of self

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NURTURE WELLBEING through exploring connections, building social skills and supporting opportunities to pursue meaningful interests