

# Public Sector Equality Duty

## Case Study

### Hillingdon Looked after Children and Care Leavers Service

The service works with children and adults aged from 0-25 who are in care.

The Looked After Children team provides statutory social work service to looked after children aged 0-15 (and 9 months). They then move to the Care Leavers Service which provides the remaining statutory duty until their 18 birthday. Thereafter they become Care Leavers and are supported by the Young people's team up until their 25 birthday.

The service is underpinned by the Children Act 1989 and other statutory regulations concerning the planning and review of care placements

We have Corporate Parenting responsibility for these young people and work with partner agencies to ensure our children and young people are safeguarded.

One of the main issues has been the shortage of move-on accommodation for our 18 plus care leavers and lack of choice for our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people cohort, which has meant that they have had to remain in high cost semi-independent accommodations without any clarity on when they can be supported to move on into independence.

We worked together with our commissioning and placements team to identify suitable move-on accommodation and following a review, places were identified and funded.

Whilst this does not address the whole issue, it has enabled us to provide some choice and move on some of the young people into more suitable and appropriate accommodation.

We are using these accommodations as proof of concept and if positive we will consider the next steps and if this meets the needs of young people, to see how and if we can roll it out on a bigger scale.

We now have 10 additional rooms and young people are moving into accommodation which is suitable for them, meets their immediate needs, enables some choice and independence, but most of all stability.