

- ♦ Raise the quality and profile of children's social work, continuing and expanding the Frontline programme – which is fast-tracking the brightest and best into the profession – to at least 300 graduate recruits each year.
- ♦ Tackle delay and instability in foster care, with better support and training for foster carers, including on mental health issues.
- ♦ Continue to make it easier for children in care to find a loving home, through the national Adoption Register and the new national gateway for adoption, a first point of contact for potential adopters.
- ♦ Prevent looked after children and young people being drawn into the criminal justice system unnecessarily by promoting restorative justice.

4.6 Improving support for young adults

We want young people to face the future with optimism and confidence. The education leaving age has now risen to 18, but as children grow, their independence grows too, and the support that education and youth services provide to them and their families needs to adapt. Whether it is supporting people with the costs of travel to college or apprenticeships, or promoting positive images of young people by celebrating their successes: Liberal Democrats are on the side of the next generation.

We will:

- ♦ Work to introduce a new Young Person's Discount Card, for young people aged 16–21, giving a 2/3rds discount on bus travel, as resources allow. This will assist all bus users by helping maintain the viability of existing bus routes and making it easier to open new ones.
- ♦ Enable government departments, local Councils and private businesses to add discount offers to the Young Person's Discount Card.
- ♦ Review access to transport for students and apprentices in rural areas where no scheduled services may be available.
- ♦ Develop an NHS 'student guarantee', making it easier for students to get care and support while at university, particularly those with long-term health conditions or caring responsibilities.
- ♦ Promote social action and volunteering at school, college and university and work to raise the status of youth work and youth workers.
- ♦ Improve links between employers and schools, encouraging all schools to participate in mentoring schemes and programmes that seek to raise aspiration like Speakers for Schools and