

LEAVING WELL

AN OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK TO PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FOR CARE LEAVERS





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Overview of key outcomes

These six domains and their corresponding outcome statements reflect the results of an evidence review of care leavers' outcomes and young people's feedback. They build on each other in a hierarchy, and positive outcomes in a more foundational domain are likely to enable positive outcomes higher up in the pyramid.

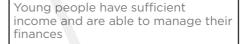


EMPLOYMENT, **EDUCATION &** TRAINING

Young people are in appropriate education, training or employment which supports the achievement of their goals



FINANCIAL STABILITY





POSITIVE ACTIVITIES Young people participate socially in the pursuit of their talents and interests



RELATIONSHIPS



HEALTH & WELLBEING



HOUSING

Young people have long-term relationships that are positive, trusting and supportive

Young people have good physical, emotional and mental health

Young people have accommodation which is stable, safe and appropriate for their needs

Introduction

Care leavers' outcomes have been a policy and service focus for several years because they are poor in comparison to those of both the general population and peers from equivalent comparison groups. Despite an increasing awareness of the outcomes, it is clear that there is large variation in care leavers' experiences of support and services, as well as limited knowledge on the factors that affect care leavers' outcomes.

In 2014, Social Finance was encouraged to analyse the experiences of young people leaving care, to learn what factors contribute to the poor outcomes and how their lives can be improved. Our research showed that care leavers' outcomes are viewed through a narrow prism. They are most often measured by education, employment and training (EET) and accommodation, despite evidence that suggests that EET outcomes are largely dependent on other factors such as the quality of young people's relationships and their health and wellbeing. Without a more complete understanding of outcomes for each and every young person, we cannot begin to see what works to improve young people's lives. There is a pressing need for greater transparency and standardisation in the way we track and understand care leavers' outcomes, so that we can begin to develop an evidence base on what works.

As a first step, Social Finance has worked in partnership with Dr Mark Kerr, a lecturer in social policy at the University of Kent who specialises in developing outcomes frameworks for vulnerable young people, to develop an outcomes framework for care leavers. The framework is based on Dr Kerr's extensive review of the evidence of the most prevalent issues experienced by care leavers and follows the logic of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. It encompasses a wide range of outcomes for young people and encourages the adoption of best practice as a minimum standard.

The indicators in the framework have been aligned with statutory guidance, including the new requirements in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. In addition, the framework's strengthsbased approach supports a focus on young people's progress and achievements rather than on identifying problems.

The guide is an introduction to the outcomes framework. We are currently developing an online tool which we will pilot with up to 30 local authorities in England by 2020. We are keen to hear your feedback on the framework so that we can make the online framework as useful and user-friendly as possible. If you are interested in piloting the digital tool or have feedback to share, please contact us at leavingwell@socialfinance.org.uk.

Our ambition is for this framework to be used as widely as possible by all organisations that work with young people leaving care in the UK and beyond.

2 Guide to the framework

Who is it intended for?

This framework can be used by anyone with an interest in monitoring and improving the outcomes experienced by young people leaving care. In order to ground the framework in practice, however, this guide assumes that the primary users of the framework will be Personal Advisors or others in similar roles. A few indicators (highlighted below) should be completed by young people independently and treated confidentially, so as to prevent professionals from influencing their response.

How does it work?

The hierarchy of the domains presented here is evidence-based and offers a guide as to which outcomes it may be more important to focus on first. However, this hierarchy is not prescriptive and needs to be weighed in balance with individual circumstances.

We have highlighted a number of core indicators which are essential for recording in the grey table rows in each section. These are the minimum indicators needed to improve our understanding of care leavers' outcomes across the board, but we would encourage the use of as many indicators as possible to provide a comprehensive view of the outcomes.

To reduce the time commitment required, existing data sources (noted alongside each indicator where available) should be used as far as possible to answer the questions. Many domains and questions in the framework also map on to Pathway Plans, and we envision that the framework could be completed with young people as part of their Pathway Plan. We would recommend that the completed framework is revisited at least once every six months, or as often as required for some indicators (e.g. some require monthly updates).

How does the scoring work?

The strengths-based scoring approach outlined here promotes positive responses. It is intended to give an overall picture of young people's outcomes and progress. Specific scoring information is presented for each indicator, and all domain blocks are scored individually to contribute towards a final score. Scoring ranges are indicated for each domain block where possible, and each domain can be used as a comparator in cases where indicators may only be relevant to a small demographic. Not all metrics will be applicable to all young people, and the scoring system enables you to skip indicators that are not applicable without negatively impacting their overall score.

Please note that the scoring system is experimental at this stage and should only be used as a guide to young people's level of need. Results should be stored in a database to enable understanding of young people's progress over time and outcomes as a cohort. If you would be interested in participating in a learning community with other organisations in order to benchmark your framework results, please let us know. We are also developing a digital pathway planning tool based on the framework, which will analyse and help to visualise individual and cohort results. The tool will empower young people to take ownership of their Pathway Plans and their outcomes. We are looking for partner local authorities in 2018 and 2019 to pilot the tool developed.

What if I have suggestions for improving the framework?

We are still piloting the framework and would love to hear any and all suggestions for improvement. Please contact us at leavingwell@socialfinance.org.uk



CORE DOMAINS

Housing

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCOMMODATION WHICH IS STABLE, SAFE AND APPROPRIATE FOR THEIR NEEDS

This domain focuses on the suitability and stability of housing. Indicators are in line with current legislation regarding housing suitability in general and the needs of care leavers. The core metric for this domain is the suitability of accommodation, which is an essential part of positive housing outcomes.

INDICATOR CODE / QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
H1 Is the young person in suitable accommodation?	•		
Does the young person have his or her own bedroom (or bedroom with partner)? Children		YES	1
under the age of 10 should not be accounted for; bedrooms, as well as living rooms, should be counted.		NO	O
Are there enough facilities provided for the number of people who will be sharing the house?		YES	1
At least 1 bathroom and 1 WC (can be combined) must be available for 4 people.		NO	0
Is the property heated? This includes central heating and other equipment for heating.		YES	1
		NO	0
Is there access to utilities and services? (e.g. hot		YES	1
water, electricity, telephone).		NO	0
Is the accommodation secure? (e.g. burglar		YES	1
alarms, locks on the windows, young person's door can be locked).		NO	0
Is housing support suitable for young person's		YES	1
assessed need?		NO	0
Does the young person understand the nature		YES	1
of their rights and responsibilities set out in the tenancy agreement?		NO	0
Has the tenancy been independently scrutinised		YES	1
and the young person provided with independent advice about the implications of accepting this tenancy?		NO	0

INDICATOR CODE / QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
H1 Is the young person in suitable accommodation?	(continued)	
Does the young person understand how the position of accommodation and related support is	:	YES	1
intended to respond to their assessed needs as se out in their pathway plan?		NO	0
Where accommodation is to be provided in a domestic setting (not with former foster carers)	Where accommodation is to be provided in a domestic setting (not with former foster carers),	YES	1
have hosts been selected, assessed and trained?	NO	0	
H2 Does the young person have sufficient income		YES	1
to cover their rent? As outlined by the Minimum Income Standard produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.		NO	0
H3 Has the young person been in the same accommodation for 12 months or longer?		YES	1
		NO	0
H4 Does the young person feel safe in their		YES	1
accommodation? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
H5 Is the accommodation convenient for commuting?		YES	1
This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
H6 Is the accommodation convenient for amenities?		YES	1
Accommodation should be within suitable distance of grocery shops, schools and doctor's surgery. This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
H7 Are local authorities providing sufficient and appropriate resource to enable the young person		YES	1
to meet housing requirements, in line with their individual needs and pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0

Health and Wellbeing

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GOOD PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

The indicators in this domain establish the prevalence of physical, mental and emotional health needs and enable practitioners to understand whether these health needs are being identified and treated. Indicators are in line with current NHS health guidance and annual checks. The core metric of this domain requires the young person to self-complete the 14-item Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS).1

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
HW1 What is your WEMWPS score? Young parson		WEMWBS	lf ≥41, 1
What is your WEMWBS score? Young person should self-report on this metric without the presence of a professional.		score	If <41, O
HW2	Pathway Plan	YES	1
Is the young person of a clinically healthy weight? A clinically healthy weight is indicated by a BMI within the range of 18.5 and 24.9.	Plan	NO	0
HW3 Have individual health needs been identified?	Pathway	YES	1
This includes physical, mental and emotional health.	Plan	NO	0
HW4	OC3 data	YES	1
Has the young person had a full health check by a GP in the last 12 months? This includes physical, mental and emotional health.		NO	0
HW5 Is the young person receiving appropriate	LAC Nurse if	YES	1
support and/or treatment for a diagnosed physical, mental or emotional health need? Appropriate support from a mental and physical health professional for a diagnosed need must be judged on a case by case basis and depends on the individual needs and if the subsequent treatment is timely and appropriate. Skip metric if young person has completed a full health assessment within the last 12 months and no physical, mental or emotional health needs were diagnosed.		NO	0

Available at: http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/research/platform/wemwbs/ wemwbs_14_item.pdf

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
HW6 Does the young person smoke? This answer has		NO	1
been reverse scored.		NON-DAILY	0
		DAILY	0
HW7 Does the young person feel physically fit? This is a subjective judgment.	Pathway Plan	YES	1
		NO	0
HW8 Has the young person undergone a Chlamydia		YES	1
test within the last 12 months? Skip metric if young person is not sexually active.	9	NO	0
HW9 Are local authorities providing sufficient and appropriate resource to enable the young person to have their health assessed and/or treated, in line with their individual health requirements and pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment.		YES	1
		NO	0

Relationships

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE POSITIVE, TRUSTING AND SUPPORTIVE

This domain captures information on the quantity and quality of young people's social networks. Relationships are of high importance among looked after children, care leavers and young people in general. Positive relationships are a protective factor and have been shown to positively influence other aspects of a young person's life, including their overall wellbeing. The core metric of this domain surrounds the frequency of family contact, although this is only to be recorded if such contact is deemed as suitable.

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
R1	Pathway	DAILY	1
How often does the young person have contact with their family? Skip metric if contact with	Plan	WEEKLY	1
family is deemed inappropriate.		MONTHLY	0
R2 Does the young person have a good quality of		YES	1
contact with their family? Skip metric if contact with family is deemed inappropriate.	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	NO	0
R3		YES	1
Does the young person have a trusting relationship with an adult? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
R4	Pathway	YES	1
Does the young person have a positive support network? This is a subjective judgment.	Plan	NO	0
R5	Pathway	YES	1
Can the young person rely on others? This is a subjective judgment.	Plan	NO	0
R6		YES	1
Can the young person trust others? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
R7 Is the young person in a happy relationship? This		YES	1
is a subjective judgment. Skip metric if young person is not in a relationship.		NO	0
R8 Are local authorities are providing sufficient and		YES	1
appropriate resource to enable the young person to maintain positive support networks and relationships, in line with their individual needs and pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0

Positive activities

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE SOCIALLY IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR TALENTS AND INTERESTS

This domain measures participation in positive activities. There is a wealth of research citing the importance of positive activities amongst young people. An important indicator to measure positive community participation is the frequency of young people's engagement in activities. The core metric of this domain focuses on the quantity of physical activity completed by a young person per week, which should be in line with the National Standards for Positive Activities.

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE S	CORING
P1 Does the young person have access to at least		YES	1
two hours per week of physical activity? This can be provided through national curriculum and leisure-time activities as outlined in the National Standards for Positive Activities (Department for Education).	NO	0	
P2 Does the young person have access to at least		YES	1
Does the young person have access to at least two hours per week of other constructive activities in clubs, youth groups and classes? As outlined in the National Standards for Positive Activities (Department for Education).	NO	0	
P3		YES	1
Does the young person have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to their community? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
P4 Is the young person aware of positive activities		YES	1
available to them? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
P5		YES	1
Are local authorities are providing sufficient and appropriate resource to enable the young person to participate in positive activities, in line with their individual needs and pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0

Financial stability

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SUFFICIENT INCOME AND ARE ABLE TO MANAGE THEIR FINANCES

These indicators capture the financial situation of a young person and identify any monetary issues that need to be addressed. It is evident that looked after children and care leavers are often severely economically disadvantaged, compared to young people from private households. The core metric concerns a young person's financial situation in terms of being able to afford items considered essential by the Minimum Income Standards (MIS); the MIS calculator² should be used to determine this on a case-by-case basis.

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONS	SE SCORING
F1 Does the young person have a bank account?	Pathway Plan	YES	1
Jose me young person have a bank account	r iaii	NO	0
F2 Does the young person have sufficient income	Pathway Plan	YES	1
to pay for essential items? As outlined by the Minimum Income Standard.	riaii	NO	0
F3 Is the young person free from any debts or	Pathway Plan	YES	1
arrears? This does not include student loans.	FIGIT	NO	O
F4 Does the young person meet all the obligations	Pathway Plan	YES	1
of their debt provider? Skip metric if young person does not have any debts.	Platt	NO	0
F5 Does the young person feel confident managing	Pathway Plan	YES	1
their money? This is a subjective judgment.	Plan	NO	0
F6		YES	1
Are local authorities providing sufficient and appropriate resource to enable the young person to maintain their finances, in line with their individual needs and pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0

Available at: www.minimumincome.org.uk

Employment, Education and Training

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IN APPROPRIATE EDUCATION, TRAINING OR EMPLOYMENT WHICH SUPPORTS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR GOALS

This domain focuses on the current EET status of a care leaver, as well as other factors that enable young people to develop academically and professionally. Education is an important domain and should be considered as part of their general welfare. This domain presents two core indicators relating to education and employment which show the young person's current EET status.

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE SC	ORING
EET1	Pathway Plan	YES	1
Is the young person enrolled in further/higher education, including apprenticeships? Skip metric if young person is in employment.	Pidfi	NO	0
EET2		52 WKS	3
How long has the young person remained in continuous employment? Skip metric if young		26 WKS	2
person is currently in education or NEET.		13 WKS	1
		>13 WKS	0
EET3	Pathway	YES	1
Does the young person have GCSE (or equivalent) Plaqualifications in Maths and English?	rian	NO	0
EET4	Pathway	YES	1
Does the young person have a plan to obtain Maths and English qualifications of at least Functional Skills Level 1? Skip metric if young person has an A*-C GCSE in Mathematics and English.	tain Plan st ung	NO	0
EET5	Pathway	YES	1
Has the young person undertaken paid or non- paid work experience?	Plan	NO	0
EET6		YES	1
Has the young person seen a careers advisor at least once in the last month? Skip metric if young person is currently in full-time EET.		NO	0
EET7		YES	1
Does the young person have career goals based on an awareness of their competencies? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
EET8 Does the young person feel their employment is		YES	1
of good quality? (e.g. relationship with employer enables progress towards long-term goals) This is a subjective judgment.	NO	0	
EET9 Are local authorities providing sufficient and		YES	1
Are local authorities providing sufficient and appropriate resource to enable the young person to participate in education, employment or training, in line with their individual needs and pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0

Other factors of interest

Alongside the six domains which emerged as key themes from the evidence, there are a number of other factors we would like to explore which seem intuitively and anecdotally important, but for which currently there is limited evidence. In the domain of early parenthood, in particular, the results from the evidence review were mixed and would require further investigation to understand outcomes. Other areas, such as offending behaviour and substance misuse, have not been included in the framework because they are not aligned with its strengths-based approach. We would like to collect data on the three domains below so that we can develop a more robust understanding of the prevalence of issues in these areas and their relationship to other key outcomes.

These domains will not be applicable to all young people, but if they are relevant for the young people you work with, it is just as important to capture outcomes in these areas as in the six evidence-based domains.



SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LIFE

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE DOCUMENTATION. ACCESS TO HELP AND SKILLS NEEDED TO LIVE AN INDEPENDENT LIFE



INCLUSION (Learning disabilities)

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES ARE VALUED EQUALLY. PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT



PARENTHOOD

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO PREVENT PREGNANCY. AND/OR ARE SUCCESSFUL PARENTS AND CONTINUE PROGRESS TOWARD LIFE **GOALS AS APPROPRIATE**

Social inclusion and life skills

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE DOCUMENTATION, ACCESS TO HELP AND SKILLS NEEDED TO LIVE AN INDEPENDENT LIFE

The indicators are designed to measure social inclusion as a whole and preparation for independent living. Social inclusion is of great importance and linked to several different domains. Core to this is the need for a bank account for young people (found in the Financial stability domain).

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
SI1 Does the young person have access to the internet as often as needed?		YES	1
		NO	0
SI2 Does the young person hold a full or provisional	Pathway Plan	YES	1
drivers licence?	Pidii	NO	0
SI3 Does the young person have a passport?	Pathway Plan	YES	1
boes the young person have a passport:		NO	0
SI4 Does the young person have a birth certificate?	- Carrinay	YES	1
Does the young person have a birth certificate:	FIGIT	NO	0
SI5 Does the young person know their National Insurance number?	Pathway Plan	YES	1
		NO	0
S16		YES	1
Has the young person attended an approved and appropriate Internet safety programme? Skip metric if Internet safety is not an area of concern – each young person's category of risk		NO	0
should be assessed individually.			
SI7 Does the young person have sufficient life		YES	1
skills to live independently? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0
SI8		YES	1
Are local authorities providing sufficient and appropriate resource to encourage the social inclusion of the young person, in line with their individual needs and pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment.		NO	0

Inclusion (learning disabilities)

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES ARE VALUED EQUALLY, PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT

This domain focuses on the inclusion of looked after children and care leavers presenting with learning difficulties and disabilities. This domain, as well as its core metric, are only relevant when a relevant professional has identified a history of special educational needs or a learning disability.

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
Overarching question Does the young person have a history of special education needs (SEN) or a learning disability?	YES	Continue to I1	
		NO	Skip block
Has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan been issued? Skip metric if young person does not have a learning disability.		YES	1
		NO	0
Has an assessment for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan been carried out? Skip metric if young person does not have a learning disability.		YES	1
		NO	0
Does the young person feel that they have access to a range of options and information for support and activities? This is a subjective judgment. Skip metric if young person does not have a learning disability.		YES	1
		NO	0
Does the young person feel empowered to make their own choices and to control their own lives? If deemed appropriate. This is a subjective judgment. Skip metric if young person does not have a learning disability.		YES	1
		NO	0

Inclusion (continued)

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
15		YES	1
Does the young person feel supported to participate in all aspects of their lives? This is a subjective judgment in regards to access to relevant services, and to go out and meet friends and family. Skip metric if young person does not have a learning disability.		NO	0
Are local authorities providing sufficient and appropriate resource to enable the young person to be socially included, as appropriate to their learning disability and in line with their EHC plan? This is a subjective judgment. Skip metric if young person does not have a learning disability.		YES	1
		NO	0

Early parenthood

TARGET OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO PREVENT PREGNANCY, AND/OR ARE SUCCESSFUL PARENTS AND CONTINUE PROGRESS TOWARD LIFE GOALS AS **APPROPRIATE**

This domain focuses on the prevention of premature parenthood, as well as on encouraging behaviours and actions that make for a healthy pregnancy. The core metric for this domain is relevant to all young people, including those who are not currently expecting a baby, and is based on the importance of young people using contraception.

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
EP1 Is the young person always using contraception? Skip metric if young person is not sexually active.		YES	1
		NO	0
EP2 Has the young person completed a sex education programme? This includes those completed at school.		YES	1
		NO	0
Overarching question Is the young person expecting a baby?		YES	
		NO	
EP3 Does the young person follow NHS guidance in regards to pregnancy, or in regards to supporting their pregnant partner? This includes not drinking alcohol/smoking, exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy/safe diet, taking recommended vitamins and supplements, attending ultrasound scans and tests and having recommended vaccinations. Skip metric if young person is not currently expecting a baby.		YES	1
		NO	0
EP4 Does the young person attend antenatal appointments and programmes? This includes midwife appointments, scheduled hospital appointments/scans, scheduled GP appointments/vaccinations and antenatal classes. Skip metric if young person is not currently expecting a baby.		YES	1
		NO	0

Early parenthood (continued)

INDICATOR CODE/ QUESTIONS TO CAPTURE	DATA SOURCE	RESPONSE	SCORING
EP5 Has the young person registered for or attended parenting classes? This includes NHS and private classes. Skip metric if young person is not currently expecting a baby and/or does not have a child.		YES	1
		NO	0
Overarching question Does the young person already have a child?		YES	
		NO	
EP6 How often does a young person have contact with their children? Skip metric if young person does not have any children, currently lives with their children or contact is deemed as inappropriate.		DAILY	1
		WEEKLY	1
		MONTHLY	1
EP7 Are local authorities providing sufficient and appropriate resource to enable the young person to meet their specific needs in regards to pregnancy and parenting, in line with their pathway plan? This is a subjective judgment. Skip metric if young person is not currently expecting a baby and does not have a child.		YES	1
		NO	0



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