

Young people leaving care still need support

Transcript

Victoria Bogle, the Good Shepherd Centre

We've identified that young people leaving care don't always have the same sort of opportunities they might have had. They have built up good relationships within the centre. They've built up attachments to staff. And that's why we have put a lot of emphasis and focus on our core support unit and the two cottages that we currently have. In the core support unit, they can start accessing community services but still have the links to education and wellbeing that they hadn't secure, and the staff that they may have had relationships with. We have Hillview Cottage which is currently a semi independent cottage. However, we've recognised that due to the age and stage of some of the young people that have come through the system, that they are looking for a more family orientated environment. So and this cottage will have a smaller team of staff that's more consistent so they can develop these attachments. In terms of their day-to-day routines and practices, we've made it more family based and family orientated, in terms of having family meals around the table, and family type activities so that the young people can feel like it is their own home, and that they can stay there. And it's not just about us trying to get them back out into the community. They use it as would a teenager in their own home. However, we have also identified a need for continuing care for young people beyond the age of 16. We currently have an 18 year old who has come through our secure centre and core support and who was keen to stay on in the centre. I'm fortunate to offer a new service, Riverview cottage, in which we offer support services to young people aged 16 to 21, which will enable them to stay with us for a longer period of time, to have that continuing care and to be able to access services while still developing into adulthood. I am very excited about it. I've worked at the Good Shepherd Centre for nearly 12 years now since it originally opened and it's something that's been a long time coming, that we have been building towards, so I'm very excited about launching this new service and getting to be involved in that. Obviously, the first young person that will be living in the service has come from within the centre, however, we would be looking at external referrals as well. And we hope to be able to build up more links into the community for these young people so that they can have better support when they're accessing college, training and unemployment because I have also recognised or we have also recognised that young people leaving care or going into college or training, they need a lot of support and they still maybe need somebody to give them a little bit of love and attention and

have you get your stuff ready for work in the morning and whatever it is that they need.
We are aiming to offer that.

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