

CARE NOT CRISIS.

BECOME.

THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

Name
Address line one
Address line two
City
Postcode

30th July 2020

Dear Name

Young people need Care not Crisis.

Emma called us shortly before her 18th birthday. Like many young people in care, the milestone birthday isn't a cause for celebration. Instead, it signals the day that many young people must go it alone, leave their homes and face a cliff edge drop in support.

Emma was told she'd be moving to shared accommodation with people she'd never met – in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. She was terrified.

Who will I live with? Will they be safe? Will I be safe?*

We fought for Emma so she could stay in her home where she feels safe, but only a few extra months were granted. It is a relief but only a temporary one. We know this and Emma knows this.

After months of uncertainty for many young people leaving care the situation is about to get worse. Please donate today to help us fight for them.

We support the government's decision that no child should leave care during the pandemic. But as lockdown eases, this lifeline will soon be withdrawn.

Emma is anxiously waiting to hear when she will be forced to leave her home. Simply because she turned 18.

When do I have to move? Where will I go to? Will anyone help me? What will happen to me?

We are calling on government to clarify how long their pledge will last. The pandemic has brought stress to us all. Young care leavers shouldn't also be expected to face this enormous uncertainty.

PTO

020 7251 3117

www.becomecharity.org.uk

Become, 15-18 White Lion Street, London N1 9PG

Become is the trading name of Become Charity, a registered charity (No. 1010518) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 2700693), registered in London. VAT Reg No. 577-8530-91.

That's why we are demanding a permanent end to the 'care-cliff'. Young people should leave care when they're ready, because forcing young people into independence too early causes harm. No one stops needing support the moment they turn 18.

No young person should be pushed into personal crisis because of their birthday.

We're also helping young people like Emma right now through 1-1 and group support, and our freephone Care Advice Service.

The coronavirus crisis has put vulnerable care-experienced young people at increased risk, with many facing increased isolation, deteriorating mental health and hardship. Young people who have already been through trauma and adversity are telling us they're struggling to cope. But if the government doesn't act, for many young people in care, their greatest challenge may be yet to come.

Emma and thousands of other children in care and young care leavers need our help. But with our income at risk because of coronavirus, we need you now more than ever.

Young people need Care not Crisis. Please, donate today and help us be there for Emma and all care-experienced young people.



Katharine Sacks-Jones
Chief Executive

P.S. To help our team stay safe by working from home, please consider donating via 07488 811 967 or www.justgiving.com/campaign/become

- **£20** could help ensure someone is able to answer an urgent call to our Care Advice Line
- **£35** could help fund daily check-ins with young people who are struggling on their own
- **£50** could help pay for a virtual 'hangout' session for isolated young people so they can connect with others and feel less alone