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Young disabled people leaving care

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Looked after children 2006-07

14,060 LAC; 12% in residential settings

1608 known to be disabled, including
• 749 ‘social, emotional, behavioural’
• 232 learning disabilities
• 104 multiple impairment
• 147 ‘other’ impairments

» Scottish Government Statistics 2007
Disabled care leavers 2006-07

- 370 had known disabilities
- of the 3400 eligible for aftercare and known to be in education, work or training,
- 28% known to have a disability
- 42% did not have a disability

» Scottish Government Statistics 2007
Disabled care leavers in England

• accommodation
• education, employment + training
• information provision
• health
• independence skills

Priestley, Rabiee + Harris 2003
Outcomes

- very little evidence
- poor housing outcomes
- professional concern re. independent living
- and about those who don't meet social services eligibility criteria
- stable care placements and specialist workers may offer some protection > more post-care stability
Policy + practice implications 1

- disabled care leavers need higher intensity support packages; greater attention to needs at planning stages; longer term support; consistent inter-agency collaboration

- more information needed about numbers, unmet need, experiences

- more investment in housing partnerships to develop specialist supported accommodation
Policy + practice implications 2

• START EARLY
• dovetail different assessments
• young people need accessible information about a range of options
• transition works best where it is gradual, with some continuity
• pathway planning should be holistic, including support for friendships