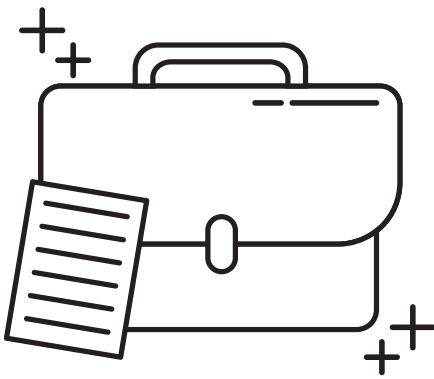




CARE LEAVERS CONNECTED

Education, employment and training edition

We hope you enjoyed your first edition of your newsletter. This edition we are focusing on education, employment and training. We know you take your future seriously, and so do we at the council. That is why we will support you in whatever training or education you choose to take on. We will support you through an apprenticeship, work based training, college, or university. Your goals become our goals, and we want to help you achieve them.



JOB FOCUS

Let's talk jobs, careers, support
If you are between 16-24 drop in
and have a chat at Cramlington Hub
(next door to Concordia)
Tuesday's 1:30-4:30

RECRUITING NOW

The Princes Trust Team Programme
Are you 16-25, unemployed,
claiming universal credit
Speak to your support worker about
the information sessions happening in
January.



Prince's Trust



SUCCESS SHOUTOUT

**One young care leaver was
successful in gaining a place
on the NHS healthcare
assistant apprenticeships and
started in November and is
enjoying it. Well done and
good luck!**



YOUR RIGHTS

Higher Education

If you decide to complete a degree, you will receive a bursary of £2000 split into instalments across the duration of your course. As well as this we support you with accommodation costs and living expenses. You will be expected to claim your entitlement from Student Finance for tuition fees and there is also the option of taking out a maintenance loan. Lots of universities also offer bursaries to care leavers and this differs across each university, your Leaving Care Support Worker will help you to find out what you are entitled to at your chosen university.
Or for further information you can visit propel.org.uk

THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

CAREERS ADVICE AND SUPPORT

The Virtual School (ESLAC) have 2 careers advisers, Andrea Johnson and Caitlin Calvert, who can help you plan your route to the job of your dreams, tell you about courses and apprenticeships available to you, help you apply for courses, jobs and Higher Education, and let you know about opportunities and bursaries/funding for care leavers, as well as much more. If you need any advice or support around education, employment or training, please contact andrea.johnson@northumberland.gov.uk or call ESLAC on 01670 622779.

Apprenticeships

This can be a great way to combine working and earning with gaining qualifications and training, right up to degree level.

Apprenticeships are usually advertised on

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> as well as employer

specific websites such as <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk> for NHS

apprenticeships or <https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/> for

apprenticeships with local councils. Northumberland County

Council prioritise care leavers for their apprenticeships, for

more details on this or general queries on apprenticeships,

please contact andrea.johnson@northumberland.gov.uk or call

ESLAC on 01670 622779.



Get Involved

We would love for you to be involved in the creation of our next newsletter - whether you are a keen photographer, writer, graphic designer or just have something to say, please get in touch with us at: participation@northumberland.gov.uk

TOP INTERVIEW TIPS

1. Be prepared

Take time to research the company you are going to meet and what they do.

2. Stay calm and don't panic

It's OK to take a few moments to think about your answers if you get asked a tricky question.

3. Sit up straight

It might sound like something you'd hear at school, but your body language tells your interviewer a lot.

4. Make a good first impression

Taking the time to prepare your interview outfit and shine your shoes can give a big boost to your professional image.

5. Know what you have to offer

This is your moment to tell the interviewer why they should hire you, so give them examples of how and when you've displayed the skills they're looking for.

6. Remember your manners

Politeness is important!

7. Practice makes perfect!

Even if you don't have someone to ask you example questions, you can rehearse the types of answers you want to give.

8. Smile

It's simple but effective

UPCOMING EVENTS

AND OTHER SUPPORT

Due to the Prime Ministers announcement and move to Covid-19 Plan B, we have had to postpone our festive meal out. This will however be rearranged at the earliest opportunity.

We are also looking for individuals to take part in some video clips, so if that sounds up your street, get in touch!



Competition Time

Whether your New Year resolutions are career focused or not we would love to hear them, in our Winter edition we are asking you to send your resolutions in and one lucky winner will be randomly picked to win a £10 gift voucher. Please email participation@northumberland.gov.uk or text 07966331532, Good luck!

Let yourself be inspired

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Hi, my name is Louise I am a footballer, foodie, and girl who loves spending time with my friends. After all of that, I am also a care leaver and a social worker. You might be thinking why on earth I chose to be a social worker, sometimes I do too. I could also be wrong; you might think it's pretty cool!

As a child who has been in care and had a social worker, I always found myself wanting someone to understand what I was going through, even just a little bit. I always found it frustrating that I felt that the people around me didn't understand me. One day, while out getting a coffee with my social worker for our 'catch up' at the age of 17, I thought to myself "I could do what she does". At the end of the day, who better to know something than someone who has a lived experience of it?!

I am a very firm believer in not letting your past define you, you are not a 'care leaver' or a 'care kid' you are you. By no means am I suggesting you should be ashamed of it either, but my advice would be if you can change something that's not been so good in your life and turn it into something positive, then do it whatever way that may be. For me, I wanted to change my own negative experiences into knowledge and understanding to help other people. So, I decided to become a social worker.

It took me two whole years to put this thought into action because I was too scared and didn't really know how to, so I just followed the path that I was already on. I had studied sports science at college and got pushed into going on to study this at university for a year. It wasn't until I was 19 when I spoke to my personal advisor who gave me advice on what to do.

I was advised to read up about the course online and check that I was interested in the different modules and then to contact the course leader at the university for a chat. I then applied and undergone an interview process. From this I got accepted and took on the big step of becoming a social worker and applied at Northumbria University.

It's really important that you know what you're entitled to and you should speak to your foster carer, social worker, or personal advisor about this. At the end of the day, we have a "corporate parent" AKA Boris Johnson. So yes, they should look after us. Make sure to ask about the care leaver award and what that means for you.

For more inspiring stories please check out these web pages,

imohub.org.uk
becomecharity.org.uk
coramvoice.orh.uk



What fun we have had



Here is a selection of some photos taken over the past couple of months, as you can see there hasn't been a dull moment. We ventured to Alnwick Scare Walk for Halloween and checked out the brand new Junk Yard Golf in Newcastle. We would love to get more people involved and continue to meet every month.

Speak to your support worker if you would like to come along and have some fun! And on that note **Merry Christmas** from the Participation Team.



Opportunities



Volunteering is a brilliant way to build up your work experience and skills, improve your CV and gain a reference. Some jobs are much easier to get into with experience so volunteering can really help you. You can search for opportunities near you on:
<https://doit.life/volunteer>

Employability Courses
Northumberland College are running courses from Jan-March. If you are interested in Construction, IT, Warehousing or Adult Social Care get in touch with Andrea Johnson on andrea.johnson@northumberland.gov.uk or 01670 622779

Construction Traineeships
Gain a level 1 qualification and explore which construction trade you might like to follow. Brickwork, Joinery and Plastering/Groundwork. Starting on 10th January in Newcastle and Hartlepool. Travel contribution paid to everyone and PPE provided. Contact info@pro-activetraining.co.uk

Northumberland College

At Northumberland College all care experienced students are allocated an Intensive Support Worker at enrolment as part of their student journey. The Intensive Support Officer is a main point of contact for the students to ensure they are supported in facing any challenges or barriers to their learning.

Intensive Support Officers meet with care experienced students regularly and share updates with parents, carers and any professionals involved, to ensure students are supported to reach their full potential.

Intensive Support Officers work as part of the wider student service team in college, working in partnership with internal teams to support the well-being of students and help remove barriers to learning and progression. Working closely with teams such as the careers guidance team, who offer an impartial, information, advice and guidance service to support students to make informed decisions on their progression and future career goals and also the student Welfare team who are on hand to offer advice and support around meals, travel and any kit needed as part of the students course.

