



FLOWERS THAT GROW FROM CONCRETE:

HOW SUPPORT SERVICES
DETERMINE A YOUNG REFUGEE'S
LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

A SUMMARY REPORT / SEPTEMBER 2011
BRIGHTER FUTURES LONDON

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OUR THANKS

This research would not have been possible without the support we received from individuals and organisations who encouraged us at every step of the way.

We would like to thank Queen Mary University of London, and particularly Dr Monika Nangia, Administrative Director of the School of Politics and International Relations, for her guidance in giving us the skills to make this research a reality.

Our thanks also go to the Brighter Futures facilitation team, Emma Turner, Trupti Magecha, Yeukai Taruvinga and the team of volunteers for their ongoing hard work and unwavering patience.

We would like to thank those organisations which assisted us in developing this piece of work including Pathways to Independence, Compass (Off the Record), Refugee Youth, Refugee Council, Voice and Kids Company as well as the other organisations that offered encouragement and support such as Refugee Youth Project and Student Action for Refugees.

We would also like to thank the Immigration and Asylum policy team at the Greater London Authority for pushing us to achieve ever greater feats.

Most importantly our special thanks goes to the Brighter Futures members for their commitment and tenacity in improving the lives of other young asylum seekers and refugees.



PRAXIS

Praxis Community Projects is a charity with over 27 years experience in the field of human rights and social justice. Praxis provides support, guidance and training for vulnerable migrants across London, empowering them to sweep away the barriers in their path and play their full part in London's social, economic and cultural life.

Praxis creates opportunities and space for dialogue between policy makers and migrant communities with an aim of developing appropriate policy and positively influencing the immigration debate.

Supporting Brighter Futures is a critical piece of this work, giving a voice to young asylum seekers and refugees.

KAZZUM



Kazzum creates playful theatrical experiences in unusual places involving the imaginations of its diverse young audiences. Since 1989 Kazzum has presented over 50 high quality productions and projects, in its 21 years. Over that period young audiences habits have evolved and more children are encountering the arts outside of conventional arts spaces.

We seek new and alternative methods of captivating young people's interest through providing ambitious theatrical experiences, possessing dynamism and flair, that challenge audiences' preconceptions of life and live performance. All based in a belief that the theatrical experience should look beyond the familiar.

Kazzum believes that every young person has the right to be an Artist, Participant or Audience member and that they should expect a high quality theatrical experience to stimulate imaginations and be inspired to partake in other creative opportunities.

QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Queen Mary, University of London is one of London and the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions. Amongst the largest of the colleges of the University of London with 16,000 students, Queen Mary's 3,000 staff teach and research across a wide range of subjects in Humanities, Social Sciences and Laws, in Medicine and Dentistry and in Science and Engineering.

**We want to have
our voices heard.**

**RIGHT
FOOT
UP**



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ABSTRACT

At Brighter Futures we have long recognised the important role key workers and social workers have in supporting us. A good social worker or key worker can make all the difference - between a young person feeling safe, listened to and optimistic about the future or feeling isolated, threatened and stuck. We know that a good social worker that goes the extra mile can open the door to our future.

Over the past eight weeks members of our group have carried out desk research, as well as interviews with 5 professionals, 28 interviews with young people and 3 focus group discussions, each including 21 young people. By the end of this process we felt that we had different stories shared by young people as well as an important perspective provided by professionals.

A number of interesting issues were raised through our research, from feelings that practitioners sometimes lacked understanding of the particular needs of young asylum seekers and refugees to an understanding on our behalf of the pressures placed upon key workers and social workers.

Due to the short time frame we had to present our initial findings we knew the topics we wanted to cover had to be as specific as possible. Therefore this piece of research focuses upon exploring services which are delivered at critical times in our lives.

From both the young people we spoke to as well as the professionals who support young asylum seekers, age dispute was a major issue of concern. **One of the main problems is that the process is not always fully explained to young people and confusion as to who exactly should be clarifying a young person's age.**

Education was another major theme for this research. Young people we spoke to often felt that the course they take up depended more upon the cost of the course and less upon their previous experience of education or their future career ambitions.

What was clear from our interviews with young people and professionals is that communication is key to a young person feeling like they understand why a decision has been made on their behalf.

The final theme of this research was the uncertainty and vulnerability young people felt at the age of 17 and a half due to worries that the support they receive being immediately cut off.

The young people we spoke to did not feel like they had completed the transition to adulthood and had not been prepared to live independently. This leaves them particularly vulnerable at a time as the asylum process becomes much more rigorous.

Although legislation was a major factor in the decision to provide support to a young person post 18, we found that a professional's approach also played an important role in a young person feeling supported. A social worker or key worker who 'would go the extra mile' made a large difference to a young person. Often small and informal gestures increased a young person's feeling of being listened to and supported.

We learnt about the freedom some key workers experience in the voluntary sector which is not enjoyed by social workers who must operate within the framework of the local authority. This lack of freedom was compounded by pressure to meet targets, heavy workloads and recent budget cuts.

Importantly this research confirmed our knowledge that a practitioner's understanding of the needs of young asylum seekers and refugees is critical in providing an appropriate service.

In the pages that follow we have laid out what we feel are the key attributes of a good social worker and key worker. We hope that this piece of work will inspire practitioners to go the extra mile despite the challenges they face and that we can play our role in this process.

BRIGHTER FUTURES LONDON



Brighter Futures London is a self-advocacy group of active young asylum seekers and refugees with roots in a variety of countries and continents; including West, Central and East Africa - from Togo to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia, to countries in South Central Asia such as Kurdistan and Afghanistan.

We are young leaders - united by a passion and commitment to improve the quality of life for other young asylum seekers and refugees. We are your future politicians and doctors, singers and models, engineers and artists, accountants and footballers. We are young people who are the same as any other young people in the UK and around the world.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We meet every week and work together as a group to fight for our rights as young asylum seekers and refugees. We challenge the media and campaign to get our voices heard and change policy.

We raise awareness about our experiences and the obstacles we go through. We conduct research and speak at conferences, produce exhibitions and speak on the radio, and develop our leadership skills through training – and we also have fun!

WHAT WE WANT

We want to share our experiences of being young asylum seekers and refugees in the UK to improve the opportunities and experiences of other young people faced with the same obstacles we have had to overcome. We want our human rights to be acknowledged. We want to make a difference to our lives and to the lives of other young asylum seekers and refugees.

WE WANT TO HAVE OUR VOICES HEARD

We want people to understand - why we come to the UK and what life is like for us here. We want to express ourselves without fear. We want to share our energy, vibrancy and culture. We want to be recognised for what we contribute and what more we can give if the barriers are removed. We want to have the same opportunities as any other young person living in the UK.

We want to have relationships built on trust and not on disbelief. We want to be seen as children and young people first rather than being defined by our immigration status.

WE WANT A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH

Earlier this year on a warm March evening, Brighter Futures London launched their well received exhibition and book of poetry ***Flowers that grow from concrete - views of young asylum seekers and refugees living in London.***

The exhibition helped to articulate the views of young asylum seekers and refugees living in London. It graphically expressed the trials, journeys and aspirations of young people forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in the UK whilst withstanding the daily struggles they face to survive. The exhibition empowers young asylum seekers and refugees to have a voice and participate in issues that affect their lives and was an opportunity for Members of Parliament, policy-makers, the media, employers and service providers to hear a vital voice within London's thriving youth. The exhibition launch was hugely successful and attended by over 70 people with key stakeholders responding that the exhibition gave very clear and powerful messages, highlighting issues which most were previously unaware of.

In order to raise awareness of the day-in day-out struggles faced by young refugees, the group delved into their own personal histories, revisiting often painful and difficult experiences. But looking backwards is not what Brighter Futures is about. The group's vision was never about the past, but about changing the experiences of their peers for the better in the here and now, and increasing their opportunities for the future.

Hence ***Flowers that grow from concrete - How support services determine a young refugee's life opportunities.***

Reflecting upon our personal experiences is key to deciding where to focus our energy. The ability to really make a difference also guides our efforts.

At Brighter Futures we have long recognised the important role key workers and social workers have in supporting us. A good social worker or key worker can make all the difference - between a young person feeling safe, listened to and optimistic about the future or feeling isolated, threatened and stuck. We know that a good social worker that goes the extra mile can open the door to our future.

We know the significant positive impact a good social and key worker can have on a young asylum seeker or refugee's life chances, such as by giving support with accessing education, relevant training, support groups which increase social networks, and appropriate housing. Conversely, we know that poor practice can have a debilitating effect, from diminishing our feelings of self worth and increasing isolation, to reducing future opportunities and our ability to contribute to society.

Experiences of social workers and key workers were varied within our group. While many members identified support workers that were very supportive, others were less fortunate in their experience. We had many thoughts about the reasons behind this – from varying knowledge of the asylum process to differences in how teams operate geographically.

So when we were asked ***'what next?'*** celebrating the good work of social workers and key workers, and improving poor practice seemed the best place to make an impact.

In 2001, The British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering stated in their report 'I Did Not Choose to Come Here' that unaccompanied refugee children 'need to be, and deserve to be, listened to and heard'. We agree.

We hope that by exploring what makes the difference between one person's experience and another's we will be able to raise standards for all young refugees and asylum seekers and play our role in being part of the solution.

METHODOLOGY – AN EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH

The starting point for this piece of work was our own experiences. As a group of young people who are currently receiving, or have received support from statutory and voluntary organisations, we felt that our own stories were the best possible starting bloc for this piece of research.

As a result we decided we would adopt a methodology that drew upon action research and experiential learning, recognising that we were best placed to improve practice due to our first-hand knowledge.

Participation was an essential element of our approach. It was important this piece was conducted by us as researchers, facilitators and interviewers allowing other young asylum seekers and refugees to tell us their stories, peer to peer.

QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL

The School of Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary University of London supported us in developing this methodology further. Over a bespoke course of eight weeks, we were given insight into research methods, from designing our own research and conducting interviews, surveys and focus groups to research ethics and working with numbers.

The first step was turning our many questions and ambitions into focused themes of discussion. We were asked to reflect upon words which we heard often and were important to this piece of research. This included words which made us confused or emotional - words which baffled us and words which made us angry.

The words which came up time after time included **indigenous, social services, income support, racism, discretionary leave, terrorism** and **ethnic group**.

Broad themes began to emerge which we wanted to explore further. We did not understand why we were sometimes treated differently to other young people from the UK and were worried that we were being defined by our immigration status rather than as young people needing support.

Due to the short time frame we had to present our initial findings we knew the questions we planned to ask needed to be as specific as possible. We therefore decided to focus our research upon exploring services which were delivered at critical times in our lives. The areas we chose to explore were:

- **Age Disputes**
- **Education**
- **Post 18 services for young asylum seekers and refugees**

DESK RESEARCH

Having agreed on the themes, we conducted desk research to familiarise ourselves with studies that have been done. Desk research enabled us to gather and analyse information that would be useful in our report. We looked at key policies and relevant information from the government, academic studies and voluntary agencies. We were surprised to find that there were lots of information that we did not know existed. One of the striking features that we came across was that whilst there have been a lot of studies on the experiences of young asylum seekers and refugees, there has not been a lot of studies conducted by young refugees and asylum seekers themselves beyond *Becoming a Londoner by Refugee Youth*.

As a group we decided to allocate ourselves into small teams to focus on specific themes which are, Age Disputes, Post 18 services and Education. As a result we came up with a list of sources that we found useful. We analysed key government legislations, such as the Children's Act, and Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act. We were keen to note what the legislations says about the support and care given to young refugees and asylum seekers. We noted unaccompanied asylum seekers are entitled for support under the Children's Act 1989 and the Leaving Care Act 2000. One astounding fact we came across was that according to the GLA, over two thirds of asylum seekers are young people and in most cases they have arrived in the UK as unaccompanied children.

One astounding fact we came across was that according to the GLA, one child in 19 in London's schools was a refugee. This figure does not include children who are not attending school, or in non-school based post 16 education, which means the number of refugee children could be even higher (GLA 2009).

INTERVIEWS WITH PROFESSIONALS

We felt that engaging the professionals was important in order to balance their perspectives with the interviews we conducted with young people. We designed a slightly different questionnaire for professionals which mainly focusing on how they work with young asylum seekers and refugees.

For this research the professionals that we engaged were social workers, key workers and other professionals who work in the policy and development areas within the refugee sector.

FOCUS GROUPS

We conducted 3 focus groups with young people, each including 21 young participants. The focus groups were conducted in a safe environment to ensure they all felt confident in sharing their experiences. The focus group sessions were captured by a voice recorder as well as with written notes.

During the focus group sessions, we made sure that ground rules were well established. The focus groups lasted for just over an hour and we used various methods to capture all the views of young people present, including flip charts and break out groups. Through this we were able to draw upon the attitudes, feelings, beliefs, and experiences of the young people involved. The young people interacted well together as groups due to their shared experiences of being young asylum seekers and refugees.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERVIEWS WITH YOUNG ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Getting the views and experiences of young asylum seekers and refugees was the main focus of this research to give the reader a rich knowledge of what our experiences are.

Prior to conducting the interviews we designed an in-depth questionnaire which consisted of different the different themes we had identified. It took us six weeks to design and finalise the questionnaire. The summer school at Queen Mary University played a major role in facilitating this process. We had to take into consideration ethics in research, and also had to keep in mind our audiences and what we hoped to achieve. We were conscious not to have a long winded questionnaire that would discourage young people from participating.

The final questionnaire included 19 questions, including closed questions, scaled questions and open ended questions. We practiced the interviews amongst ourselves before doing the field work. Once we were all confident, we went out to conduct one-to-one interviews with our peers. We agreed to conduct semi-structured interviews to allow a better flowing dialogue. As a result the interviewees were comfortable with us and all shared their personal experiences.

We encountered some challenges which in fact were part of the learning process. It has not always been easy arranging suitable times to conduct the interviews. We needed to work a lot on getting support for our research and had to be prepared to answer any challenging questions. Due to the vulnerability of the young people we engaged, we had to make sure they understood our intentions, convince them that their identities would remain confidential and that our research would not in any way jeopardise their situation.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

For this research we carried out desk research, as well as interviews with 5 professionals, 28 interviews with young people and 3 focus group discussions, each including 21 young people. We felt that we really had different stories shared by young people as well as an important perspective provided by professionals.

We engaged young people from different parts of London. Some we knew as friends and others we met through partner organisations.

This is a snapshot of responses from young people. All the respondents lived in London and their age ranged from 14 – 25 years old. At the point of this research 64% were under the age of 18 and 96 % of the young people have been age disputed.

All the respondents expressed their views about their experience with a social worker or key worker. When asked to rate their relationship with their social worker or key worker on a scale of 1 - 5 (1 being Not Good, 2 - OK, 3 - Good, 4 - Very Good and 5 – Excellent), thirty-two percent (32%) expressed that their relationship with their social worker as being “OK” and thirty-five percent (35%) said they did not have a good relationship. Twenty-two percent (22%) said they have a very good relationship or excellent relationship with their social worker and key worker.

The majority of the young people have had their social workers for at least two years whilst some had social workers that changed. **One of the key issues that emanated from young people's responses was that they felt that social workers lacked understanding of their needs.** This finding is supported by the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering who stated that the needs of unaccompanied refugee children can be complicated, and practitioners' knowledge of them limited (Kidane 2001).

However despite this feeling, the majority of the young people interviewed felt that their social workers and key workers provided support with GP appointments, housing, and finding legal representation when needed.

We learned that in England and Wales, unaccompanied children are supported under the Children Act 1989, and are covered by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

AGE DISPUTES

Age disputed children are those whose stated age as a child is in dispute by the Home Office or a local authority and they are therefore treated as an adult. In some cases, this results in a young person being held in immigration detention.

In 2009, there were a total of 4,391 asylum applicant dependants aged 18 and under (Home Office, 2010). In addition, a further 1,130 age disputed separated children applied for asylum in the same year (Walker 2011).

From both the young people we spoke to as well as the professionals who support young asylum seekers, age dispute was a major issue of concern. It is a process that takes long to resolve and often makes young asylum seekers frustrated. Age in the asylum process is important because it affects the kind of support that young people receive. This support could include housing and education.

One of the main problems is that the process is not always fully explained to young people. One professional service we interviewed gave the following example:

On a number of occasions we have young people who come to us to interpret what their

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

social workers and key workers have said. It has become a norm that even social services might assume that the young people will come to us and provide some of the services that they should be doing such as giving advice and guidance.

The actual age assessment process was often felt to be unfair and based upon trivial evidence. It was felt that officials mainly based their decision on how a young person looks. A support agency said that if a young person is pregnant, tall or behaving maturely then they are more likely to assume that they are an adult.

The professional went on to reflect:

This reminds me of a time when one young person had an age assessment within the home office and she was put into a separate room to be observed. At that time the home office was disputing her age. Whilst she was in the room they looked at the way she was flicking through the papers of a magazine. Even at that time there were discussions as to whether this young person is really an adult.

An organisation providing counselling support to young asylum seekers and refugees said that avoidance of providing longer term support can be a motivation for social services in assessing an age as older.

We were surprised by the length of age disputes some young people experienced. Some young people we spoke to have an age dispute that has been ongoing for up to 3 years.

Confusion existed as to who exactly should be clarifying a young person's age. In some boroughs young people reported that it was their social worker who was responsible for clarifying their age whilst in other boroughs young people identified other agencies being involved in the process.

EDUCATION

Many young people we spoke to said that the support given to asylum seekers when they go to college is ESOL. However, this again depended upon their status and whether they can access funding to pay for the cost of the course.

Young people felt that the course they take up depended more upon the cost of the course and less upon their previous experience of education or their future career ambitions.

Due to the varied experiences young people have whilst trying to access education, one support agency felt that the support a young person may receive depends upon the borough they live in – something young people we spoke to referred to as a postcode lottery.

Social workers and key workers have an important role to play in ensuring a young person is accessing the best course for them. A social worker needs to ensure that the young people are doing the right course and studying what they are interested in.

They also need to prepare them for school and college and make sure that they have the right educational equipment and money to support them when they are studying. The kind of financial support a young person receives should be decided through a young person's care plan or assessment plan.

An official assesses an asylum seekers' level of education through talking to them and their writing ability. Testing a young person's level of education is quite difficult. I think that they need to acknowledge foreign languages when assessing for college, as it is a skill in itself.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

What was clear from our interviews with young people and professionals is that communication is key to a young person feeling they understand why a decision has been made on their behalf.

It's all about communication. Social workers should talk to you about what course is right for you and recognise the education you've had. If a social worker is advising that you should take an extra year they need to explain why. The biggest problem is when they don't give a justification for their actions and do not explain things to you.

POST 18 SERVICES FOR YOUNG ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Approaching adulthood can be a difficult time for all young people. However for young people in the asylum process, it is a time which is particularly debilitating. Young people we spoke to felt they were most vulnerable at the age of 17 and a half as they are worried the support they are receiving will be immediately cut off.

Once you are over 18 year of age a young person may then assume that they may be sent back to their country anytime.

Support services identified numerous occasions when the support of the young people they are in contact with is disputed once they reach 18. Support seemed to vary – many inconsistencies were noticed both by professionals as well as within our research. Some young people still have a social worker within the 18+ team, whilst others have support withdrawn at 18. Support seems to focus on housing and money rather than wider support

Many young people do not feel like they have completed the transition to adulthood and have not been prepared to live independently. This leaves them particularly vulnerable at a time when the asylum process becomes much more rigorous.

Accessing support post 18 depends on a number of factors including their status - that is, if they have indefinite leave to remain or if their case is not yet decided. It also depends on whether they have been in care - those who have been in care usually find they get support up until they are 21 years of age.

A professional from Refugee Council advised that the level of support a young person receives can depend upon the resources of the local authority.

What I experience at times is that when they are reviewing the cases for those who are over 18 they usually do not provide a young person with named Social workers. Although some social workers might want to provide extra support to the young person, they can't do so because they are controlled by the resources of the organisation. I know there is a quite a good number of social workers who are brilliant and want to do their work very well.

Similar findings were made by the Children's Society and Save the Children. In 2001 Save the Children found that 58% of young refugees in the West Midlands did not have a named social worker reflecting the findings of the Children's Commissioner's report on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the London Borough of Hillingdon (2008).

Studies into the experiences of unaccompanied children found that the quality of care they receive may depend more on the local authority responsible than on individual needs (Austen et al. 2008).

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Recent budget cuts have made it increasingly difficult for local authorities to provide for children in their care. This is also likely to exacerbate the variation in standards between different social service teams (Marriot 2001, Pinter 2011).

The Social Care Institute for Excellence also recognised the importance of appropriate support for local authorities to ensure appropriate personalised provision for asylum seekers and refugees. Their recommendation of a rights-based approach to social care requires appropriate levels of funding to enable local authorities to discharge their responsibilities, alongside clear guidance from the Department of Health and the UK Border Agency. In its absence local authority teams are left to make decisions on a case by-case basis, which may result in only a minority of asylum seekers and refugees accessing appropriate provision (2010).

Although legislation was a major factor in the decision to provide support to a young person post 18, it was found that a professional's approach played an important role in a young person feeling supported. A social worker or key worker who 'would go the extra mile' made a large difference to a young person. **Often small and informal gestures increased a young person's feeling of being listened to and supported.**

A social worker interviewed for this research spoke about how he decided to seek employment within the voluntary sector rather than stay within a local authority's children services. He explained that within the voluntary organisation where he was now employed he was given the freedom to offer the support he felt was necessary. He explained that it was difficult to go the extra mile for young people when he was the only one doing so within a team.

This was compounded by pressure to meet targets. Building a therapeutic relationship with clients became difficult due to pressure from managers to meet targets and tick boxes.

This reflects the pressures social work teams find themselves under due to an increasing workload. When asked what would help professionals deliver a better quality service he replied:

More time, more money and less cases.

When we asked young people what kind of support they received after they were 18 years of age, we received varied responses which depended on their circumstances i.e. if they have been in care, have additional needs or living in a certain local authority.

"When I reached age 18 years old my social worker came to me and said that I will not be receiving any help with money, travel and accommodation. What was painful was that they did not prepare me for this. They just stopped the support without giving you time." Respondent A, 18 years

"I am still receiving the same support from my social worker. They said they will help me until I am 21 years old" Respondent B, 19 Years

WHAT MAKES A GOOD SOCIAL WORKER OR KEY WORKER?

“To me, a good social worker is trustworthy, honest, always available, and does what they say they will do”

A practitioner’s understanding of the needs of young asylum seekers and refugees is critical in providing an appropriate service.

When I used to be a social worker, I used to work in a good team and most people supported quite a number of young asylum seekers. I think at times there may be a lack of awareness of the needs of refugees.

Voice, a national charity committed to empowering children and young people in public care, recently carried out a survey asking universities teaching Social Work to outline their course content which relates to young asylum seekers and refugees.

Over 140 universities were contacted of which 25 offered responses. From the responses sent, information given to social work students varied from a few giving specialised workshops, sometimes delivered in partnership with organisations working in the sector, to many advising that they had no dedicated teaching session on this subject. In some cases universities pointed to specialised courses which took place at the institution, but were not included as part of the social work course. One university confessed that the whole subject amounted to only about an hour of teaching time.

There was a general consensus amongst the young people we spoke to that most social workers in Unaccompanied Minors Team (where they existed in a local borough’s Children Services) were very supportive. However support seemed to diminish when a young person turned 18 and were transferred to another team which did not have specialist knowledge of the particular issues and obstacles faced by young asylum seekers and refugees.

Through focus group discussions we came up with our own description of what makes a good key worker and social worker

- A good key worker and social worker provides help and advice on how to deal with all immediate needs including housing and legal support
- A good key worker and social worker provides translations and financial support, helps us to enrol in school or college, and to get a National Insurance number
- A good key worker and social worker is an advocate who represents your needs in situations when you need help
- A good key worker and social worker is an example and inspiration to other people and their colleagues
- A good key worker and social worker is dedicated, happy and committed to helping others
- A good key worker and social worker understands the extra difficulties we face as young asylum seekers and refugees
- A good key worker and social worker explains a situation or choice to us fully
- A good key worker and social worker is a life saver

MOVING FORWARD – THE BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARD

We believe that in our transition to adulthood it is paramount that we receive appropriate support and care regardless of our background. We believe that it is important to recognise and acknowledge good social workers that support us.

We have learnt the constraints placed upon social workers and key workers as they aspire to give us the support and encouragement we need. These include pressure work pressures and a high casework load, cuts in resources available and not being equipped with the knowledge of the particular challenges we face.

It is in recognition of the challenges social workers and key workers face that we in turn want to recognise when a practitioner goes the extra mile despite these constraints.

We want to celebrate the work of exceptional workers and shine a light on what makes them so special. We want to share what it is they do that makes a difference with their peers. We want to create positive role models that other social work staff and departments can look up to and learn from. We hope that this award will go on to be recognised by all practitioners as a significant achievement which they will strive to achieve year on year.

In partnership with key organisations and local authorities we want to give young asylum seekers and refugees the chance to nominate and award an inspirational worker that has made a positive impact upon their life. The Brighter Futures Award.

The Brighter futures Award is for a social worker or key worker who shows excellence in helping young refugees and asylum seekers achieve a Brighter Future.

We hope you will support us in this celebration.

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