

Appendix 1- Supported Accommodation

What Children and Young People Say

Surveys and focus groups with children in care are regularly conducted by Wiltshire Council and on an annual basis. The authority encourages youth voice, supporting young people to engage with consultations.

The Make Your Mark survey was completed in 2023, with all schools in Wiltshire. The results showed that Health and Wellbeing were the top priority for young people:

Please Tell us What Issue is Most Important to You Sum of Person

Health and Wellbeing	1108	The bright Sports Survey 2023-24 was completed by a
Education and Learning	490	
Rights, Equalities, and Democracy	401	
Crime and Safety	354	
Jobs, the Economy and Benefits	298	
Climate Change and the Environment	285	
Culture, Media, Sport	264	
Transport	134	
Youth Work and Young People's Services	94	
International Relations	69	
Grand Total	3497	

representation of Children Looked After and Care experienced young people. The results of which will be evaluated in May 2024 and will feed into the service specification.

A workshop was set up in Dec 2023 with the Youth Ambassadors, chaired by Commissioning and supported by the Staying Close coordinator. Young people in the workshop had experience of fostering, residential and supported accommodation.

Comments shared by young people:

“When young people need help, it’s not always available when you really need it. When the support is not there, young people are at risk of increased poor mental health and behaviours can escalate”.

“When moving from foster care to full independence – some young people are not given any choice on where they are moving. I have experienced a lack of support to set up bills, water, gas or basic living requirements. This results in young people getting into debt and can be really daunting.”

“It would be beneficial to have this advice / support rather than just getting a number or email. We need to have strong relationships as well as information.”

“Housing / bidding is very challenging and young people need a lot more help with this.”

The workshop is going to continue regularly, with a plan to invite young people to be part of the property viewings and service specification development.

In individual conversations asylum seeking young people feedback:

- **Young people would like smaller houses, that feel like a normal home.**
- **A large house can sometimes be too noisy and difficult to manage living with others.**
- **Being close to activities and having support to attend them is important.**