

WHAT IS A KEY WORKER?

Young people come to Pathways for lots of different reasons but for any young person, from the UK or abroad, living on your own without the support family is tough. There might be some things you find difficult and need help with.

We aim to provide help with all of the important areas of your life which you might need help, such as education, work, health, immigration, and so on. We want to try and help you with all these things, so that your stay at Pathways is as happy as possible, however long it is.

We also aim to provide you with a home where you feel happy and safe, and to help you deal with any problems you might come across when living with other people. One day you will probably live on your own or with other people outside of a Pathways home, so we want to help you get ready for this.

This is where key workers come in!

You will have a key worker allocated to you. Your key worker is there to give you information, advice and practical help with all sorts of things, to help you achieve as much as you can, or to help you find other people and groups who can help you. There are lots of people out there who can help make your life better in lots of ways, but of course you will might need help to find them. Your social worker is also there to help you, and they will be checking that Pathways are doing their job with you.

We want to choose the best possible people to work with you. We undertake various checks to make sure of this, such as police checks and references from previous employers. We also make sure that they receive a high standard of training so that they are qualified to undertake this work and keep informed of new ideas etc.

How can a Keyworker help you?

Remember a key worker is not there to do *everything for you* while you chill out! Key workers will ultimately try to enable you to do things for yourself and make your own decisions. But along the way we will support you with that and discuss any issues or worries you have, such as:

- Finding your way around town and getting to know local services – doctors, dentists, libraries, banks, shops, launderette etc
- Going with you to appointments
- Social integration – how to make friends and dealing with relationships
- Support with Life Skills e.g.; budgeting, health, hygiene, cooking, house management etc;
- Accommodation and preparing to live on your own e.g. tenancies, bills etc
- Money worries – how to apply for support and financial planning
- Putting you in contact with other support agencies and going with you if it helps.
- Careers and choosing courses

- Education, training and work
- Time management – how to plan your study
- Difficulties keeping up with work or attendance (things that may be preventing you from getting into college)
- Speaking to tutors on your behalf – if you feel you can't talk to your tutor direct
- Childcare
- Legal and Immigration Issues - making sure you get good advice and support
- Health
- Planning for what happens when you leave care and the different options available to you
- Personal Support
- Anything else you might need help with! Just ask!

Do you talk to my social worker?

Yes. We will always update your social worker on any work done with you, although the sessions are confidential. If your social worker has referred you then we will confirm with him / her meeting times and pass on a report of the work done, at the end of each month.

The work we do with young people varies greatly and often, if the social worker knows that there may be things going on which are affecting you, your health, or study, for example, with your permission, we ask them to share any information that can help our work with you. If you prefer, any information can be kept private from us, and you can continue to work with your social worker on any confidential and personal issues that you do not want to discuss with us. Where it is in your interests we might suggest we speak to your social worker on your behalf but this would only be done with your permission.