Home and belonging initiative

‘Home isn’t a place, it’s a feeling’ (Cecelia Ahern)

As human beings, we have a profound need to feel safe and secure in a familiar environment, particularly at key stages of our development.

Children and young people who have been formally looked after, in whatever capacity, are more likely to struggle as they transition into adulthood and can be particularly vulnerable when they attempt to move on and establish their own household. This may be in part because of early disruption, trauma or profound loss they may have experienced.

However, there are also structural reasons that can make it extraordinarily difficult for young people to feel a sense of home and belonging without considerable expertise and support.

Care experienced young people have consistently said that it is not enough to pay attention to where they will stay once they move beyond their care placement. Thought also needs to be given to what their life will be like in their new accommodation, not only in a practical sense but also how it feels for that young person.

If young people experience poor health, loneliness and isolation, unemployment and/or financial difficulties, their chances of being able to make their accommodation feel like a home will be greatly reduced.

Our Home and Belonging funding initiative has been designed to provide an inspiring opportunity to re-imagine what a fulfilling future can look like for a care experienced young person, based around a safe, welcoming and personal space – their home. We want people to explore fresh concepts and move beyond existing models of service and support.
We also want to encourage prospective applicants to be bold and innovative in their approach while using the application process to collaborate, inspire and challenge both themselves and their peers.

This exciting new initiative aims to make a significant contribution towards transforming care experienced young people’s life stories as they grow and develop beyond formal care and to make sure they are supported to find a strong sense of home and belonging in their own communities.

The specific aims of the funding are to:

- Encourage the design of new, innovative models of living for care experienced young people beyond their care placements
- Encourage the design of service approaches that transform the path to adulthood for care experienced young people

**Funding approach**

We are particularly interested in opening up this funding stream to a broad range of potential applicants and collaborators – we think this will provide the creative space needed to develop new thinking and ideas and turn these into concrete plans.

Co-design principles are at the heart of Home and Belonging. All final proposals for funding will be co-designed by applicants alongside care experienced young people.

We believe that by investing in young people and giving them the opportunity to collaborate with a variety of sector representatives, practitioners, designers and people with technical and commercial expertise we will generate exciting ideas which can transform care experienced young people’s experience of home and belonging.

We have identified **five main groups** we would like to engage with:
| care experienced young people and adults | We will continue to work with our existing Care Experienced Advisory Group on this initiative, and we plan to recruit additional care experienced young people who will act in three main capacities:  
- providing general advice/input into the development of the whole initiative  
- co-designers of specific proposals  
- decision-making |
| service designers, technology experts and home retailers | Service design and digital expertise can help us to think differently about possibilities, and to approach the whole discussion about home and belonging from a new standpoint.  
Home retailers have a wealth of knowledge on what helps people to make a house a home and what they value in terms of décor, furnishing and textiles. Many retailers are now exploring corporate social responsibility, and looking for avenues to engage in social causes. |
| housing associations, developers and experts in the built environment | Housing associations play a key role in the development of social housing and have a strong track record in engaging with communities. They also work in partnership with Local Authority Development, Housing and Economic Redevelopment teams.  
Developers and built environment experts have access to key resources and intelligence in relation to living spaces. |
| organisations with experience of supporting care experienced young people | Corporate Parents and Third Sector organisations are getting alongside care experienced young people every day, and already the have relationships in place that are vital to the success of any initiative.  
Many are already exploring fresh approaches to service delivery. |
| other funders and potential investors | Independent funders are increasingly interested in collaboration and wider influence. This initiative could provide a unique opportunity to join forces for maximum impact. |
This is not an exhaustive list – as we engage with interested parties, we may meet others who are attracted to the approach and we plan to be as inclusive as possible.

As these are not groups who would necessarily work together naturally, the funding approach will involve a number of steps to build connections.

Who is eligible to apply for funding

As highlighted above, this funding initiative has been designed to attract a range of potential applicants.

All applications must be developed on a collaborative basis, that is, more than one organisation or body must be involved in development and delivery. Young people must be at the heart of developing the project idea and shaping it as it makes progress.

Application collaborations will need a Lead Applicant, which can be:

- Not-for-profit voluntary or community groups (including Registered Charities, Social enterprises and Companies)
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Statutory bodies

Collaborations can include other partners including private sector organisations and self-employed individuals.

What kinds of projects will we fund?
The aims of this funding initiative create lots of scope for a wide range of ideas to come forward. The tables below offer examples of the type of projects which could be supported by this funding stream.

The Trust believes that working with a diverse group of organisations and individuals in a creative way will allow other ideas to emerge.
**design new, innovative models of living for care experienced young people**

| Project types | • Contribution to new build projects rooted in the community  
|               | • Repurposing of existing buildings  
|               | • Intergenerational community developments  
|               | • Home sharing or other similar models  
|               | • Home modifications, upgrades to living environments |

**design service approaches that transform the path to adulthood for care experienced young people**

| Project types | • Digital tools which focus on human interaction and which support genuine empowerment of care experienced young people  
|               | • Relationship-based approaches including peer education/support/mentoring, coaching  
|               | • Reciprocal exchange networks, allowing care experienced young people to offer their skills/time as well as to receive help/support  
|               | • Use of individual budgets/self-directed support |

For all projects, we will be looking for evidence of:

- prioritising the needs of care experienced young people over the needs of services or institutions
- demonstrating belief and trust in care experienced young people
- providing opportunities for the wider community to get involved
- taking a positive approach to risk (risk aware as opposed to risk averse)
- approaches that show progress towards active citizenship for care experienced young people
How much funding is available and what costs will it cover?

This funding stream is open to proposals for funding between £20,000 and a maximum of £500,000.

Applications requesting funding of more than £200,000 will need to have cash match funding in place, as follows:

- Funding request for £200,000 to £300,000 – minimum 25% match funding required
- Funding request for £300,000 to £500,000 – minimum 50% match funding required

Funding is available for up to three years.

Applications for less than £200,000 do not have to guarantee match funding, but your application may have improved chances of success if you can offer match funding in cash or in kind.

Trust funding can cover a range of costs, as outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Can Fund..</th>
<th>What We Cannot Fund..</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Costs (building costs, materials, legal fees, architect fees, feasibility and business plans)</td>
<td>Costs incurred before funding has been approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Costs and training</td>
<td>Costs/overheads that are already covered by other funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>VAT that can be recovered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>Any costs not associated with the project/work the Trust is funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overheads</td>
<td>Replacement of statutory funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Expenses</td>
<td>Participation costs for young people</td>
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<td>Communications costs</td>
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### Initiative Timeline

#### Proposal development and assessment

| September/October | • Themes from launch event shared widely by the Trust  
|                  | • Expressions of Interest developed by potential applicants (4 week period for submission of short Expression of Interest – using template)  
|                  | • Deadline for Expressions of Interest – **Wednesday 3 October**  
|                  | • Initial panel to assess expressions of interest – **Wednesday 10 October**  
| October          | • Successful Expressions of Interest advised  
| October/November | • Applicants have 8 weeks to complete a full proposal  
|                  | • Support available from Advisors  
|                  | • **Deadline 7 December 2018**  
| December/January | • Initial review of full applications (12 December – 18 January 2019)  
| January 2019     | • Presentation of projects event (**tbc - week commencing 28 January 2019**)  
|                  | • Trustees and Care Experienced Advisory Group make final decisions on projects to be funded  
| March 2019       | • Projects begin  

### Expert Advisors with Experience of the Care System

To ensure we have the voice of care experience built in throughout this initiative, we have recruited a team of care experienced young people to undertake various roles in this funding approach.

The role of the advisors will be to:
1. provide general advice/input into the development of the whole initiative
2. co-design of specific proposals for funding
3. make decisions on funding proposals alongside Trustees from the Life Changes Trust

**Expressions of Interest**

If you intend to submit an expression of interest we would like you to tell us:

- About your idea
- Why is it needed? (What themes does it address?)
- What and How? (What is it and how does it work?)
- Who? (Who benefits?)

**Please refer to our website for the Expression of Interest form.**