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**The NLCBF is run by Catch22. It provides its 78 local authority members with opportunities to network and learn from each other. It also supports and promotes the voice of young people.”**

**National Audit Office**

# What is the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum?

The National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF) has a large and active membership of over 82 local authorities and trusts from all over England and Northern Ireland. Our aim is to achieve the best outcomes for young people making the transition from care to adulthood.

We provide a framework for networking and learning between members. Members support each other to develop more compliant, efficient and cost effective services through sharing and developing policies and best practice. Every year a work plan is developed in partnership with the members of forum based on an assessment of individual and collective needs of members in order to see how your service is doing and working to improve it and to explore and understand what a 'good' service is.

We are the only forum specialising in leaving care. We ensure that members have up to date information on policy, research, participation and practice development work.

We develop quality products, such as a Guide for young people 'Staying Put' and advice guides on benefits.

We are a collective voice – able to influence policy development with government.

We support and promote the voices of young people.

**“Organisations delivering statutory duties to care leavers can't afford not to be Forum members with the increased savings and improved efficiencies it offers.”**

## What has it achieved?

“The National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum has made a substantial and sustained contribution to improving services for young people leaving care at a local, regional and national level. It has achieved this through providing opportunities for its members to share best practice and engage with policy issues, new ideas and developments. Through its collective expertise and wisdom it has also contributed to shaping the national agenda.” (Professor Mike Stein, University of York)

## What are the benefits of membership?

- Attendance at 6 days specialist peer learning and development for managers
- Attendance at 3 days themed learning and development for practitioners
- Regular E-Keynotes bulletin with policy and practice updates
- Opportunity for care leavers in member Local Authorities to join the Young Person's Benchmarking Forum
- Exclusive members area of NLCBF website at [leavingcare.org](http://leavingcare.org)
- Members on line peer enquiry and benchmarking service
- Access to extensive resources on leaving care

- Specialist policy lobbying and dissemination
- Regular consultations with central Government and opportunities to influence developments at a national level
- Close working relationship with Ofsted and focus on inspection and performance frameworks
- Advice and support from the policy and practice experts.

## NLCBF Work Plan 2014/15 to focus on meeting OFSTED expectations for care leavers by:

- Sharing work so all Local Authorities can be compliant with policy and practice expectations
- Sharing the experience of OFSTED inspections of leaving care services across all members
- Equipping members to prepare and support staff to be ready for OFSTED inspections
- Providing members with examples of good practice initiatives to replicate
- Learning from other Local Authorities how they are providing cost effective services.



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**After attendance I felt enthused and invigorated and equipped with concrete information to help me provide services to our young people. I know that others who have attended the forum or training have been equally impressed.”**

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**We are going to do a mini benchmarking across the 3 local authorities... this is really exciting and wouldn't have happened without us networking at NLCBF members meeting.”**

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**We saved money by learning from others at the Forum and avoiding costly judicial reviews.”**

## **How to join**

To join or to continue your membership please contact  
[Alice.Frank@catch-22.org.uk](mailto:Alice.Frank@catch-22.org.uk)

## **Who we are**

A forward-looking social business, Catch22 has more than 200 years of experience of providing services that help people turn their lives around.

**[catch-22.org.uk](http://catch-22.org.uk)**

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