



six THINGS

How to support young people in care affected by immigration control

We are young people from the All4One group

All of us are in the UK on our own, living in Greater Manchester with foster carers or in supported lodgings, and we are all seeking asylum.

We are experienced and brave. We have big dreams for our futures. We want to make positive change so that young people in our situation have the best care possible.

one

Remember, we are still young people

We understand it might be hard to imagine where we're from, but we're just young people and we're on our own. We still need a real chance at teenage life in the UK, and we need your help.

"All I want is for them to think of us like your own children. Look after us like you would your own children."

two

Make time to support our futures

We know you have lots of young people to support, but we don't know anyone here. Our lives are complex, we face different problems to our British friends in care.

"We all need different pathway plans as we are at different points in the process. Some friends don't even have a pathway plan."

three

Listen to our questions

We ask questions because we don't understand. We don't want to feel like a burden.

"I asked for something so I could improve my English. My social worker said, 'I'm not Bill Gates!' I didn't understand, and I felt like I could never ask for something again."

four

Keep your promises

Whether it's big or small, if you don't know, don't promise. You can say 'I'll try', 'I'll do my best' or 'I will find out'. Take the time to have difficult conversations with us.

"All I wanted was to sleepover at my friends. I was promised, I was so excited, she's my best friend who I came here with. And then I was told no, I was so upset."

five

Treat us equally

We want to be treated the same as each other. It sometimes feels like others are a priority because they are louder about their problems, or that we only get noticed if we behave badly.

"My friend was given a bus pass. So, I asked for a bus pass so I could play football, I was so lonely. I was told no, with no reason. I couldn't understand it."

six

Be present when you're with us

We need you to hear us, help us and believe us. We like it when you put down your notepad and just be with us.

"They ask how you are, you can say 'good', but if they were looking at you, they would know the truth. The best social worker I had said 'let's go for a 5 minute walk and talk.'"

To find out more about the All4One group and the work behind 'Six Things' contact Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) on 0161 740 7722 and info@gmiau.org



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