LEAVING CARE: OUTCOMES FOR FOSTERED YOUNG PEOPLE

PROFESSOR MIKE STEIN; PROFESSOR SONIA JACKSON; MARK ROGERS

Part of the Rees Centre Public Engagement Seminar Series

Wednesday 20th March 2013, 5.00-6.30pm
Seminar Room A, Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY

Professor Mike Stein is Research Professor at the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York. His presentation will explore young people’s transitions from care to adulthood. It will begin by setting transitions from care in a normative context, highlighting differences between care leavers and young people moving on from their families. The presentation will then focus upon young people’s main pathways to adulthood - accommodation, careers, and health and well-being - drawing out the policy and practice issues arising from research findings. Professor Sonia Jackson OBE is Emeritus Professor of Social Studies and Education at the Institute of Education, University of London. Sonia’s presentation argues that the care system is failing young people in three interrelated areas: stability in placement, educational progress and transition to adulthood. A comparative study (YIPPEE) of England and four other European countries highlights the weaknesses, and some strengths, in our own system. It shows that in all countries children in state care suffer delay and disruption in their education for which the care system fails to compensate, and which puts them at high risk of social exclusion in adulthood. This needs an unremitting focus on education (in its broadest sense) from the first day that a child comes into care right through to adulthood. Leaving care services should take a longer view and prioritise educational engagement over self-sufficiency. Mark Rogers, Chief Executive of Solihull Council and Chair of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), will respond with a policy perspective.

Attendance is free with no need to book, and drinks will be served after the seminar.

Join the discussion – even if you can’t be there.
Visit our blog post for this seminar at
http://reescentre.education.ox.ac.uk/about-us/leaving-care-outcomes-for-fostered-young-people/ to post questions for our speakers.

We will use as many of your questions as possible and feed back responses online.