

# Young disabled people leaving care

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# Looked after children 2006-07

14,060 LAC; 12% in residential settings

1608 known to be disabled, including

- 749 'social, emotional, behavioural'
- 232 learning disabilities
- 104 multiple impairment
- 147 'other' impairments

» Scottish Government Statistics 2007

# Disabled care leavers 2006-07

- 370 had known disabilities
  - of the 3400 eligible for aftercare and known to be in education, work or training,
    - 28% known to have a disability
    - 42% did not have a disability
- » Scottish Government Statistics 2007

# Disabled care leavers in England

- accommodation
- education, employment + training
- information provision
- health
- independence skills

Priestley, Rabiee + Harris 2003

# Outcomes

- very little evidence
- poor housing outcomes
- professional concern re. independent living
- and about those who don't meet social services eligibility criteria
- stable care placements and specialist workers may offer some protection > more post-care stability

# Policy + practice implications 1

- disabled care leavers need higher intensity support packages; greater attention to needs at planning stages; longer term support; consistent inter-agency collaboration
- more information needed about numbers, unmet need, experiences
- more investment in housing partnerships to develop specialist supported accommodation

# Policy + practice implications 2

- START EARLY
- dovetail different assessments
- young people need accessible information about a range of options
- transition works best where it is gradual, with some continuity
- pathway planning should be holistic, including support for friendships