

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
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Title:	Executive Summary "Education matters in Care" The All-Party Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers
Reference:	
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Executive Summary

Throughout this inquiry there has been an acceptance that education matters but that achieving in education is much more difficult for young people in care than for their peers. By the very nature of being in care, young people have experienced a different and often very difficult start in life. Those experiences in themselves create barriers and so need to be understood in the context of learning and education.

Some of the major obstacles identified during this inquiry relate to: the stability and continuity of the services and people responsible for the health, well being and education of looked after young people; the management of transitions in care and education; and the level of understanding about the importance of education for children in care by professionals and carers. A number of the recommendations we make in this report seek to promote a more cohesive system where education is an intrinsic part of the care environment and where all key people in a looked after young person's life understand and actively participate in their education. While there are no shortage of statistics that highlight the attainment gap of those in care compared to their peers, this inquiry has spoken to young people who have done well in education. Despite tough backgrounds, young people in care can achieve when properly supported and encouraged. The inquiry found that much more needs to be done to increase aspiration not only of the young people themselves, but those around them.

[http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/data/files/Education Matters in Care September 2012.pdf](http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/data/files/Education_Matters_in_Care_September_2012.pdf)