

My Things Matter

1 in 3 care-experienced children will move home this year. That is over 26,000 children in England and 2,200 children in Wales.




Every single one of those children deserve to move with dignity and respect, which is what My Things Matter is calling for.

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National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) launched “My Things Matter” – a national campaign across England and Wales – that aims at improving the experience of children and young people when moving from one home to another during their time in care. The campaign wants to raise awareness among local authorities and care professionals about the importance of treating with care and respect both young people and their belongings.

“My Things Matter” is based on the campaign research report “Support and respect care-experienced children and their belongings when they move” that revealed a series of key findings, such as:

-  3 in 5 children and young people had their personal belongings lost or damaged when moving home while living in care
-  4 in 5 children and young people had their belongings moved in bin bags during their time in care
-  only 1 in 3 local authorities have formally written guidelines used to support their staff or carers to help children and young people to move successfully.

Moreover, the report developed by NYAS brings forth a pledge they ask local authorities to sign in order to make the moving experience as easier as possible for children in care.

The five pledges are as follows:

1

We will help you to keep your most precious belongings with you safely during your move and promise they will not be moved in bin bags.

2

We will provide written guidance for you and anyone helping you to move, which we will publish on our website.

3

We will never move or throw away your belongings without your consent and will always respect your personal property.

4

We will support you to make a complaint if any of your belongings have been lost or damaged during your move.

5

We will communicate with you about your move and ask you how the move went.

FCA Thames Valley strongly advocate for the **My Things Matter** Campaign. We listen to what children and young people want, care about what they say and do everything we can to empower them to have a voice and be heard when important decisions are being made which affect their future. We influence and campaign to bring about positive changes and ensure children' and young people's rights are upheld.

We want to promise young people in our care that safety, transparency, respect, support and communication will be of the utmost importance during their move, whether that's respite, moving onto independence or moving to a new foster home.



We have kindly been donated 120 duffel bags from **Madlug**. Madlug was founded in 2015 by Dave Linton. A man whose only experience in the luggage industry was bags of enthusiasm. He was heartbroken when he learned that most children in care have their belongings moved in a bin bag.

In that moment, Dave set out to do something about it. With £480, he started Madlug and came up with our 'Buy one, Wear one, Help one' approach. With every bag purchased, a pack-away travel bag goes to a child in care. When a child comes into our care we will make sure that they receive one of these bags. They will be put in the memory boxes and personally get given to each child. This is something that is theirs and that they can keep forever. It is so important that young people feel respected, valued and dignified when moving home and these bags will ensure they do.