Consultation on Aftercare Services in Delhi

A Report
14 December, 2017

Supported by:
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<tr>
<td>CCI</td>
<td>Child Care Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLAN</td>
<td>Care Leavers Association and Network</td>
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<td>CWC</td>
<td>Child Welfare Committee</td>
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<td>DCPCR</td>
<td>Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights</td>
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<td>DWCD</td>
<td>Department of Women and Child Development</td>
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<td>ICPS</td>
<td>Integrated Child Protection Scheme</td>
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<td>JJ ACT</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice Act (2015)</td>
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<td>KII</td>
<td>Key Informant Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT</td>
<td>National Capital Territory</td>
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<td>YLC</td>
<td>Youth Leaving Care</td>
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<td>YLCA</td>
<td>Youth Leaving Care Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYLC</td>
<td>Support for Youth Leaving Care</td>
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Acknowledgements

A ‘Consultation on Aftercare Programmes in Delhi’ was organised by Udayan Care in collaboration with Plan (India) International, Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, and the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on December 14, 2017. A big ‘Thank You’ to Plan International for so graciously providing the venue at the Indian Habitat Centre, and to Ms. Shilpa Shinde, Director, DWCD, and Mr. Ramesh Negi, Chairman, DCPCR, for ensuring the participation and representation of the relevant government departments.

I am thankful to our panellists: Ms. Rita Singh, Member, DCPCR, Ms. Chesta Yadav, Assistant Director ICPS, DWCD Member, Ms. Poonam Mehta, Senior Programme Manager, Plan India International, and Ms. Karishma, an alumna of Udayan Care, now working as a Human Resource Associate at Mercer, and representing the Youth Leaving Care (YLC). Additionally, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Ramesh Negi, Chairperson, DCPCR and Mr. Harsh Mander, Director of Centre for Equity Studies, for making the agenda of aftercare services a priority, and becoming our partners in this journey. Their insightful suggestions and input to group discussions were extremely valuable and indispensable to the success of this consultation.

I am also extremely grateful to the participants from various child rights organisations, representatives from various government departments and support agencies, and to all professionals from the field of child care and protection, especially the staff of government aftercare homes. The presence of representatives from Salaam Baalak Trust, Prayas, Nirmal Chhaaya, Alipore Boys’ Home, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Umeed Aman - Rainbow Homes, STOP, Bal Sahyog, Minda Bal Gram, Don Bosco, Jain Mahila Vikas Ashram, UNICEF, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Caritas India, iPartner India, etc. was a strong signal to the Delhi community that a network of invested stakeholders is ready to develop a sustainable action plan for providing quality services to support young adults transitioning from Out-Of-Home care (OHC) to independent and conscientious living. My compliments to Ms. Aneesha Wadhwa, Trustee, Udayan Care, for mentoring the project and succinctly summing up the event! My extended gratitude goes to Udayan Care’s Senior Consultant, Dr. Shivani Bhardwaj, for tirelessly working to gather support for our cause and ensuring the success of the consultation; and to the research team – Ms. Shubhangi Kansal, Ms. Riti Chandrashekhar and Ms. Rini Bhargava for the compilation of this report.

I hope that this consultation and report will serve to further build and strengthen aftercare programmes in Delhi, for the adequate social reintegration of Youth Leaving Care (YLC) of Child Care Institutions (CCIs); and invigorate all to view aftercare for YLC as a human rights and developmental issue.

Dr. Kiran Modi
Managing Trustee, Udayan Care
December 20, 2017
Executive Summary

A consultation was organised on December 14, 2017 by Udayan Care, Plan (India) International and DWCD to share the preliminary findings of Udayan Care’s research on aftercare, funded by DCPCR, and to evolve the aftercare agenda in Delhi by collaborating with key stakeholders.

The research was conducted as a pilot in Delhi to understand from the Youth Leaving Care, their own experiences in accessing aftercare services in Delhi. The members of CWC, DCPU, DWCD, DCPR and Heads of CCIs were also interviewed to assess the level of aftercare provisioning in the NCT of Delhi. The findings indicated that aftercare services reached very few YLC and different organisations were dealing with aftercare as a moral responsibility rather than as a legal compliance.

Different stakeholders, including Youth Leaving Care from various CCIs attended the consultation to advocate for the need to strengthen the aftercare support to Youth Leaving Care (YLC) in Delhi. The research team while sharing the findings were able to list the various gaps existing in the aftercare services in Delhi. The gaps identified created the group discussion agendas during the event - the need for research due to lack of empirical data, legal and policy reform, aftercare services required in Delhi, and the need to set up a Youth Leaving Care Association in Delhi. Consultation’s participants were divided into 4 groups to brainstorm on issues that assail aftercare programming in Delhi and how it can be made effective and robust. These groups were provided with a background and draft advocacy note that assisted in thinking beyond basic issues to develop a resolute agenda that can form recommendations for Government, the CCIs and the YLC.

The discussions generated interest of the stakeholders to partner in a journey to evolve the aftercare systems in Delhi. Udayan Care suggested that this group of stakeholders meet continually to provide Support of Youth Leaving Care (SYLC).

The consultation concluded with a positive note with DCPCR announcing its intent to set up an information, referral and grievance cell for YLC in Delhi to assist their mainstreaming.
Background

Udayan Care, with support from DCPCR, conducted a research with various stakeholders involved in aftercare of youth who age out of child care institutions (CCIs). Interviews were conducted with key-informants (KII) and the Youth Leaving Care (YLC). This consultation on aftercare in Delhi was organised to share preliminary findings from the research with the intent of getting stakeholders together to join hands in support of a robust Aftercare planning for the Youth Leaving Care in Delhi. The invitees to the consultation were provided with a background note to understand the context.

**Setting the Context:** Attaining 18 years of age marks a significant shift in the life of ‘Youth Leaving Care’ (YLC) from child-care institutions (CCI). It throws up new transitional challenges as well as opportunities. Challenges arise due to the absence of a family-like ecosystem that provides support and guidance; while opportunities are manifestations of new circumstances that allow the youth to explore adult life independently. During this transition, these young adults need planned support in matters like establishing their legal identity, employment, higher education, accommodation and stress management. Absence of such a support system has the potential for slowing or often denying them their full settlement in life. This is the basis of aftercare services which act as the preparatory stage for young adults leading to their social mainstreaming.

‘Mainstreaming’ and ‘full settlement’ have immense contextual relevance as the existing system of aftercare in Delhi is inadequate and full of challenges. Organizations that provide aftercare services to YLC have a strategic advantage in articulating the ground reality of these challenges. However, its implications are known only to the youth; and so, these challenges need to be understood from the perspective of the young adults themselves. The terms ‘mainstreaming’ and ‘full settlement’, although subjective, need to be defined by comprehensive benchmarks. A few CCIs and stakeholders have convened in Delhi in the past three years to contribute towards developing a shared understanding of the nature of existing aftercare services and the gaps in its programming.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 prescribes for financial and non-financial aftercare support for young adults in the age group of 18 to 21 years, who have left institutional child care to join the mainstream of society. However, prescriptions in law need a programmatic agenda and an adequate budget per YLC to offer adequate aftercare services. The current budget of Rs 2000 per YLC is neither adequate nor transparent in its allocation.

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1The aftercare consultations convened by Udayan Care in 2014, 2015 in Delhi and Rainbow Homes and DCPO in 2017
During preliminary meetings with Udayan Care, the DWCD expressed keenness to become our knowledge partner, so that the need for a comprehensive aftercare scheme for youth could be discussed with the relevant government offices and NGOs. In addition, Plan International committed to advocate for the complete realization of each YLC’s human rights in the process of their transition; as well as promote community based aftercare such that family systems were strengthened to support Youth Leaving Care.

Udayan Care with support from DCPCR has documented its research on the young adult’s experiences during their transition from alternative care system to aftercare. This research covers interviews with YLC and key informants, like professionals and experts from the field, and functionaries of CCIs, DCPUs, CWC and DWCD, to offer preliminary findings on the issue. The findings throw light on the need for a collective understanding to address the challenges faced by YLC in accessing aftercare and for the stakeholders to organise effective aftercare support to the YLC. The challenges are summarised as:

**Challenges**

1. **Estimating numbers of YLC to ascertain quantum of provision required in Delhi for adequate aftercare**

The first challenge in addressing the aftercare needs of YLC in Delhi is estimating the quantum of provision without having an estimate of the YLC population. A government official at a meeting in the Ministry of Women and Child Development of Government of India shared with Udayan Care that there are approximately 60,000 YLC in India for the year 2017. When asked if there was any empirical evidence to back such a claim, the reply was that these are estimates from the “missing child portal.” However, another government official during a KII shared that the numbers on this portal need to be verified as some entries are duplicated, while many other CCIs have not entered information on the portal at all.

There are 4 aftercare facilities run by Government in Delhi - one for women and three for men. The existing aftercare facilities should be successful in preparing the young people for higher education, vocational training and employment, but these facilities are limited and grossly inadequate in providing such opportunities to all YLC equally. Therefore, the total number of youth ageing out of CCIs should be estimated such that aftercare may be provided to every YLC. The data available with the government of Delhi is limited to information of registered CCIs,
whereas many orphanages function without registration. This gap will leave many YLC in non-registered CCIs out of the planning net.

2. **Setting adequacy of entitlements and human rights of the YLC as per legal provisions**

The second challenge is to understand the adequacy of existing opportunities availed by YLC in need of aftercare support. The YLC themselves have no organized collective to put forth their issues. One of the key-informants interviewed during the Udayan Care-DCPCR study suggested that infrastructure for organized and coordinated programs on aftercare is needed; and this should be linked to the ICPS district level structure.

3. **Setting up the policy and implementation framework based on legal provision**

The third challenge is the lack of proper implementation and an adequate monitoring system for aftercare processes. The need for an aftercare monitoring system is felt by private professionals, NGOs and government officials, alike. Relevance and efficiency of services is a matter of concern to ensure that the support received by YLC is efficacious. The prescription of JJ Act law that each child in the CCI must have an individual care plan which forms the basis of the progress of each YLC’s development plan must be in place, and followed up through a monitoring mechanism.

4. **Learning from evolving good practices**

Preliminary study of the key-informant interviews conducted by Udayan Care reveals that stakeholders aspire for better collaboration and communication between governmental and non-governmental agencies. Whereas, the YLC themselves have the least access to information and services. Some of the stakeholders interviewed by Udayan Care have stated that:
• For aftercare delivery, the YLC need to remain contactable through their self-organized support groups.

• Both YLC and their aftercare providers need organized access to information to services and trainings.

• The accommodation needs of the YLC need to be addressed keeping in view the proximity of the aftercare facilities they could avail near their work or place of continued education.

• Career planning and settlement of YLC need a PPP model.

• The setting up of a monitoring mechanism on aftercare needs to be through a consultative process that has representation of the YLC and the CCIs.

“I, or a member of my team, would like to flag up the need for inclusion of youth leaving care of child care institutions. These young adults have faced abandonment, and they are traumatised again when they need to leave the care institutions at the age 18 as the JJ Act (2015) requires them to. Some of these youths have mental disabilities which may be cured through associational relationship building in community setting. Inclusive planning in the neighbourhood has been a call by many organisations and the Master Plan of Delhi has held consultations before on this aspect. Yet, we have only a ramp or a disabled friendly toilet as a takeaway. Much more is required to build and design inclusion and integration of those who need it the most.”

- Anonymous participant at the consultation

Given the context, the consultation on aftercare services in Delhi was organised with three main objectives:

• Get stakeholders involved with aftercare in Delhi to a consultative process.

• Disseminate the preliminary observations of Udayan Care’s research (supported by DCPCR), and share the perspectives of different stakeholders on aftercare support and services.

• Discuss the policy, programme and monitoring of adequate aftercare support and services in Delhi.
Dr. Kiran Modi began her address by welcoming all those who were present. She acknowledged the support Udayan Care had received from Plan (India) International, DWCD and DCPCR. She stated that there are over 31 million children in India in need of care and protection (UNICEF 2009), who live in alternative care; and emphasized the need to guide these young adults transitioning into adulthood. Dr. Modi very aptly said that “aftercare services form the preparatory stage for young adults, and need a ‘continuum of care’ approach, leading them to become resilient and productive citizens in society.” However, she also pointed out the reality that due to “inadequate aftercare infrastructure and support in our country, many young adults become rudderless once they leave the child-care institutions.” She emphasized that as the number of children in need of care and protection rises, the need for effective and efficient aftercare services becomes more and more essential. She stressed that the provision of aftercare services form the preparatory stage for young adults, and need a ‘continuum of care’ approach, leading them to become resilient and productive citizens in society.”
support and services is necessary to avoid chances of homelessness, criminal activity, substance abuse, and other pitfalls of adulthood in the absence of proper guidance and mentorship.

Next, Dr. Modi elaborated on the evolution of ‘aftercare’ within India’s legal and political framework. The ICPS, the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015, and the National Youth Policy (2014) have succeeded in highlighting the need for greater investment and involvement by the Government of India for the development and delivery of aftercare services.

Moving forward, Dr. Modi stressed the need for proper action plans, clear guidelines and implementation strategies, and our utmost commitment to providing effective aftercare at the ground level. However, Dr. Modi warned that these plans must be rooted in empirical evidence and must be developed in collaboration with the youth. In this regard, Dr. Modi cited the HHC Theory of Social Change that mentions 4 essential components:

- Political will
- Evidence and knowhow
- Civil society participation
- Resources

According to Dr. Modi, most of the existing good practices aftercare models are resource intensive and outcome orientated. To conclude, Dr. Modi asserted that “together, we need to find solutions in the best interest of our youth, for their fundamental human rights. In short, a social development framework is really the only way forward.” This will require the four components coming together and collaboration of the entire community – government initiative, expertise of professional practitioners of youth welfare, a buy-in from civil society organizations and citizens, and youth becoming their own advocates. Dr. Modi invited stakeholders to collaborate with each other and develop a platform that provides ‘Support for Youth Leaving Care’, in short SYLC. (The acronym is pronounced as silk denoting a smooth transition to adulthood.)
Ms. Chesta Yadav, Assistant Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Delhi

Ms. Chesta Yadav informed the gathering that the 4 state-run aftercare institutions in Delhi provide vocational training, skill training, job placement and arranging marriages for young women as endeavours in the best interests of the YLC. She said that youth under government care have undertaken hotel management and IT courses, secretarial and administrative training, etc. to gain skills while increasing one’s employability. However, Ms. Yadav clarified that stable employment was a long-term solution to mainstreaming for mostly boys; whereas, marriage seemed to be more effective for the social reintegration of girls. This comment caused unrest among the participants and one of them interrupted the presentation stating that marrying off girls to integrate them into the community underscores the current skilling efforts and hinders equal opportunities between for boys and girls.

Ms. Yadav ended her address by throwing light on the fact that children in need of care and protection come from diverse backgrounds, each carrying their own baggage. All are burdened with some kind of trauma from their past, while some continue to suffer from physical or mental disabilities. It is evident, however, that they all require individualized attention and care that responds to their unique needs.

Ms. Rita Singh, Member, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR)

Ms. Rita Singh began by congratulating Udayan Care for its initiative and highlighted the importance of conducting research on aftercare support and service. Through her experience as an ex-CWC member, Ms. Singh has directly observed the stigma young adults often face upon leaving the care of CCIs, making their transition and reintegration into the community all the more difficult. Ms. Singh acknowledged the presence of the visible gap between the availability and need for financial assistance, physical and emotional wellbeing, social support, and infrastructural services for YLC. Thus, a research to assess the magnitude of support and services required becomes
imperative. She cited a few aftercare models, such as Udayan Care’s and SOS Children Villages’ that have already set a benchmark for continued quality care and must be replicated and built upon.

In addition, Ms. Singh stressed that preparation for independent living must begin early on, with individual care plans for children between 16-18 years of age. From there on, assistance for higher studies, career planning, accommodation, social support, etc. should be tailored to the unique needs of each individual. However, the flipside to this approach is the fact that when encountered with large numbers the ideology of catering to individuals would leave a majority of YLC handicapped in terms of provision of support and guidance. To this end, she informed the gathering that the Delhi government would be holding a consultation in February 2018, to discuss how we could transform our city into a child-friendly ‘Smart City’.

Ms. Poonam Mehta, Senior Program Manager, Plan India

Ms. Poonam Mehta introduced the need for community-based rehabilitation for youth leaving care. Ms. Mehta laid emphasis on the fact that in the recent past, crime rates have increased exponentially. Statistics have revealed that most criminals fall in the 18 to 25 age group. Ms. Mehta shared government statistics on youth delinquency stating that it has become a matter of public health concern in Delhi.

One possible explanation for YLC turning to crime is that upon leaving their CCIs, some young adults find themselves at the crossroads for survival. Having barely reached adulthood, and without any access to guidance or support, young adults faces extreme situations. Having only limited resources, petty crime seems like lucrative option to resort to. As detrimental as this is to the young adult, it also has a hazardous impact on the community. Unfortunately, this occurs primarily because the community fails to accommodate the YLC in the first place. This happens due to a variety of reasons:

- Most of the CCIs and aftercare institutions have not been operating within vibrant community settings
- Empirically, level of preparedness of young adults for life outside of institutional care is very low. Thus, there is a high risk of negative affect
- Systems for regular tracking and follow-up with YLC is lacking
Inadequacy of existing support provisions

To tackle the situation, Plan India suggests:

- Community-based aftercare support
- Job-oriented vocational skills, career counselling and job placements
- Mentors who work closely with young adults and keep them well-informed so than can make free decisions
- Mainstream education (NIOS, IGNOU, etc.) and provide life skill trainings for confidence building
- Facilitation for youth-community interactions and involvements
- Strongly advocating for child and community participation through formation of groups to mainstream them in society
- Working closely with the government system
- Regular monitoring – tracking progress, provide need based support

Ms. Mehta concluded her presentation by re-emphasizing that the youth should be provided with community-based and not institution-based care. Community collaboration could yield better results than institutions.

**Ms. Karishma, a representative of YLC, Udayan Care Alumna**

Ms. Karishma grew up in one of Udayan Care’s Sunshine Ghars, before moving into their aftercare facility in Greater Noida, NCR, to ease her transition into adult life. Today, she has turned into an independent, compassionate young woman. With an aspiring career, she lives a successful, independent life. At the consultation, she spoke on behalf of all YLC present. Prior to the consultation, these young adults briefly interacted to develop a shared understanding of their opinions as a group. Her heartfelt speech began by reminding all that it is fortunate that some children like her have had the option of living in family-like environment in a CCI, after being abandoned or orphaned. She reiterated throughout her speech how much belonging to the Udayan family meant to her. She acknowledged the role of Udayan Care and Prayas in ensuring her survival and helping her get financially independent. However, Karishma also emphasised on the fact that not all children in need of care and protection receive such care. Movement from one
child-care institution to another is a common and frequent phenomenon; and it often negates any progress that was achieved.

The lack of awareness and compassion from the extended community also played a detrimental role in shaping the young adults’ self-image. Unfortunately, people generally view children who’ve grown up in alternative care with pity, rather than empathy. Ms. Karishma emotionally recalled how she was constantly bullied in school for being an orphan; while adults took for granted that she wasn’t being fed or taken care of. All of this culminated in Karishma, and many like her, to feel alienated from mainstream society. She demanded that the society should uphold each YLC’s human right to identity, and inculcate a sense of belonging when it comes to their effective survival in society. In her experience, even a resilient individual succumbs to the pressure created due to the lack of sense of belonging and it is a constant struggle to establish an identity. As an example, Karishma shared the story of her foster-sibling from her earlier CCI; a talented, aspiring young girl who was now caught in the traps of marital abuse and violence with no support to draw from. Drawing power from such cases, Karishma advocated for setting up an association for YLC as a collective to raise resources, mobilize stakeholders, and become a guiding force for their successful transition into society.
Session 2

Preliminary findings from the DCPCR supported Pilot study on Youth Leaving Care in Delhi

This session was dedicated to sharing the research findings from the Udayan Care research on aftercare supported by DCPCR.

While running Udayan Ghar programme, Udayan Care has always had an in-built aftercare programme within its homes. Since 2010, Udayan Care has a dedicated aftercare home in Greater Noida, NCR for girls, and a facility for boys at Gurgaon. However, in July, 2017, Udayan Care started work on its Aftercare Outreach Project to offer aftercare support and services to all young adults leaving the care of their child-care institution, throughout Delhi. This research is the first activity of the outreach plan.

A baseline, participatory research with support of DCPCR was designed to assess the challenges and opportunities faced by these young adults; and gather empirical data that would help in developing recommendations to inform the structural programming of state-wide aftercare service.

Ms. Rini Bhargava, in her capacity as the research officer since September 2017, presented Udayan Care’s research. The research focused on capturing the challenges and needs, vis-a-vis opportunities, faced by young adults, in their own voices, who transitioned from alternative care to independent living.

Three inter-related dynamics guided the pilot study:

- Need for aftercare services for rehabilitation of YLC
- Inadequate availability of aftercare services
- Absence of empirical data

Thus, Udayan Care designed a study in response to these underlying conditions. The study seeks to:

- Gather data on conditions of youth leaving care (YLC)
Generate inputs for policies and programmes
Make a case to strengthen existing aftercare system & services

With the support of the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), Udayan Care launched the pilot study in Delhi, in October 2017.

The objectives of the study were designed to address the aforementioned dynamics.

**Objectives of the Research Study**

1. Understand the nature of challenges faced by YLC in the domains of accommodation, education, physical and mental health, employment, financial management, legal literacy and social relationships.
2. Establish correlation between life in CCIs and nature of challenges and opportunities faced by YLC as an adult.
3. Document and analyse the emerging and promising aftercare interventions with a focus on their relevance, effectiveness and efficiency.
4. Ascertain an average number of children who exit child care institutions in targeted area every year on completing 18 years of age.
5. Recommend measures for interventions that will bring about qualitative improvement and robustness in aftercare activities.

**Information from YLC Interviews**

Udayan Care’s Research Associates, Ms. Shubhangi Kansal and Ms. Riti Chandrashekhar, then presented their initial observations made during process of conducting 35 interviews with YLC between the ages of 18-25 years in Delhi.

Reaching YLC to interview them was a big challenge as it was difficult to identify those young adults that did not receive any aftercare. Without a tracking mechanism, it is nearly impossible to identify and reach out to these youth. As a result, information regarding their progress and settlement in life remains an area to be explored further.

Although youth ageing out of CCIs are present in each of the 9 districts of Delhi, only a few receive continued aftercare support. The Key Informant Interviews (KII) of the Udayan Care research
revealed that once children age out of the CCIs, most are not tracked and their whereabouts are largely unknown. Only a few percent of those who had got aftercare could be contacted, and even a smaller percent of those who did not receive aftercare was interviewed.

During the course of the research, it was found that the CWC restores children back to their family even when their family situation may not have overcome the barriers it faced that led them to abandon its child in the first place. Thus, there is a grave need for family-strengthening and family-centric activities as a part of providing support to children in need. Therefore, it is abundantly clear that the holistic aftercare to each YLC needs to be implemented better to ensure their reintegration into the mainstream society.

**Information from Key Informant Interviews:**

Ms. Rini Bhargava further stated that in addition to interviewing young adults who are in need of aftercare support and services, Ms Aneesha Wadhwa, Trustee, Udayan Care, and Dr. Shivani Bhardwaj, Research Supervisor, interviewed key-informants to gather data on the current status of aftercare programming. These key-informants included government functionaries from the DWCD, DCPCR, DCPUs and CWCS, professionals and practitioners from governmental and non-governmental child-care organizations, and activists and scholars from the field of child care and protection. Dr. Bhardwaj discussed the information obtained by her and its bearing on our way forward to develop aftercare support and services in Delhi.

The KII revealed that:

**Need for greater collaboration for aftercare:** There is an acute lack of coordination and cross-sharing of learning and developments between all departments and various civil-society organizations. Working in isolation is detrimental to developing a city-wide service, and hence, collaboration and consultations like these are of utmost importance.

**Aftercare services mapping in Delhi:** Four government-run aftercare facilities provide aftercare support in Delhi. Some NGOs like Salaam Baalak Trust, Bal Sahyog, Prayas, Minda Bal Gram, Sai Kripa, SOS Children’s Village, Manav Mandir, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Udayan Care, etc. assisted their young adults in various aspects like higher education, financial assistance, social support, marriages, accommodation, etc. Different models adopted by these organizations need to be evaluated for their efficiency, sustainability and effectiveness such that the current aftercare practices could be improved and replicated.

**Resources being spent on aftercare of the YLC in Delhi:** A comprehensive analysis of average resources required per young adult must be conducted; and an adequate percent of the state-wide budget should be set aside. Key informants during their interviews spoke of an allowance of Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 8,000 per month required for the YLC to meet daily needs. Dr. Bhardwaj informed that the average cost for adequate aftercare for one young adult, as shared by three CCIs is
approximately Rs. 1,50,000 per annum for continued higher education and skill training and development, highlighting the desperate need to re-evaluate the current allocation of Rs. 2000 per month allocated to YLC under ICPS.

Key findings from KII interviews:

- An action plan backed by a policy framework needs to be put in place for YLC
- Many stakeholders believe a pre-aftercare programme must begin at the age of 14-17 years and a post aftercare programme needs to support the youth from the age of 21 to 25 years
- Need to estimate the number of YLC on yearly basis to set a budget for aftercare
- Individual care plan for reintegrating YLC should be accorded priority much before youth turn 18 years
- Welfare officers dealing with planning and implementing aftercare need to be trained to deliver quality aftercare programme.
- Effective delivery of services requires coordination between the government and non-governmental stakeholders
Session 3

Breakaway Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

In order to develop a more informed understanding of issues related to aftercare programming, the participants broke into four different teams to discuss the following:

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<tr>
<th>Policy and Legislative Reform</th>
<th>Aftercare Support and Services</th>
<th>Youth Leaving Care Association</th>
<th>Research &amp; Development</th>
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<tr>
<td>a) Is the current legislative framework sufficient to confer the Youth Leaving Care (YLC) a right to aftercare?</td>
<td>a) What support and services can be offered to all YLC from CCIs, and at which level?</td>
<td>a) How can the young adults organize themselves in Delhi to set up a YLCA?</td>
<td>a) What does ‘mainstreaming in society’ and ‘rehabilitation and reintegration’ mean for the YLC?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) What should be the policy and legislative reform for effective implementation of aftercare in India?</td>
<td>b) What kind of PPP model can be initiated to service YLC?</td>
<td>b) Who all can become partners to develop a forum to Support Youth Leaving Care (SYLC)?</td>
<td>b) What kind of a tracking mechanism needs to be instituted to compute the number of YLC in each district?</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) What else needs to be added or deleted to make the aftercare advocacy brief ready for circulation?</td>
<td>c) Is there a possibility of collaboration between different agencies to promote community-based reintegration of YLC?</td>
<td>c) What are the four basic steps to set up and sustain YLCA Delhi?</td>
<td>c) What kind of a budget should district planning keep aside to support aftercare of youth till they are ‘fully settled’ in life?</td>
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Although the discussions could have continued far longer than they did due to the paucity of time, the intense deliberations proved extremely fruitful. Each group then presented the key takeaways from their discussions to an esteemed panel consisting of Mr. Ramesh Negi, Chairperson DCPCR, Mr. Harsh Mander, Director Centre for Equity Studies, and Dr. Kiran Modi, Managing Trustee, Udayan Care.
The first group discussion focused on policy and legislative reforms that may be required for a more robust aftercare programme. The group members assessed the current legislative framework and then recommended the following:

**Review the upper age limit of 21 years for the provision of aftercare**

Group 1 members unanimously agreed that the age limit prescribed under the JJ Act (2015) should be extended to at least 25 years of age. It was also suggested that along with the extension of age to 25, there should be filters such as actual needs, capabilities, qualifications, skills, etc. to decide each case on its own merit.

Mr. Harsh Mander wholeheartedly agreed with this recommendation and drew analogy to his parenthood. All human beings need a caring community and we need the continuum of care all throughout the life span. Relationships of young adults with the child-care, youth-care institutions are of utmost important; caretakers, social workers and mentors must be adequately trained to completely take on the role of a parent.

**Evolve the term YLC by defining it further**

Next, the group recommended that the term YLC has not been used in law or policy so far. Yet the usage of the word makes sense. Thus, a formal definition of this broad term must be developed so that it can be included in the legislative and policy framework on aftercare.
Assess the quantum of resources required to leave no YLC behind

The JJ Act (2015) stipulates that Rs. 2000 per month will be available for the needs of each YLC, within the aftercare framework. The parameters used to arrive at this amount must be assessed.

In response to these recommendations, Mr. Ramesh Negi, Chairperson, DCPCR, promised that the Delhi’s master plan will look into local area planning by February 2018. This opportunity must be utilised to build multiple spaces for YLC that provide access to information and services. The management of such resources must be viewed as a state responsibility. Mr. Negi invited Udayan Care to draft a white paper on this aspect of aftercare. The demand must include access to spaces the YLC could design for them, and manage, such as a ‘Suvidha Kendra’ along with the women in the ‘mohalla samittis’ of the area. At this support centre, one can apply for schemes and avail scholarships and programme services. To this, Dr. Bhardwaj added that community-based reintegration and rehabilitation can be done through inclusive planning and budgeting at the local area plan level. Each neighbourhood of 3000 population could have a multi storied multipurpose building that can be managed by the women, elderly and youth leaving care. This space may have a short-stay facility as well as spaces for the elderly and the disabled as a social and green enterprise that makes integrated community living enjoyable.

Dr. Kiran Modi said “YLC could organize themselves to lobby for reservations in educational institutions and for jobs just like this is done in the West.” Towards this end, Udayan Care will guide a YLC association to be set up once an interested group have formally been constituted. Mr. Negi confirmed that the right kind of training can alter results not only in examination and entrance tests, but also yields support towards living a healthy life. He concluded that an institutional set up is required at the district level where each YLC can register for all sorts of guidance and attention from a welfare officer.

“I do not retire from being a parent and will never stop providing care, guidance and support to my children; then why should there be cut-off age to care by the State?”
- Mr. Harsh Mander

“The term ‘Youth Leaving Care’ set me thinking that even with my hair graying, I am still a youth who left care. Even after achieving success and recognition, I am still a YLC. I relate with YLC from all walks of life and will continue to do so forever.”
- Vicky Roy
Salaam Baalak Trust
The second group focused on the methods of improving the existing aftercare support and services. The group members were required to explore contribution by members of society that could enable youth to settle in society; the support and services required by the YLC; and the need and extent of a public private partnership (PPP). They provided recommendations to strengthen the agencies that run aftercare programmes to promote community-based reintegration of the YLC, through an on-going provision of comprehensive aftercare services. The provision of the following services was recommended by the group:

**Creation of a youth database with help of youth workers**

The group representative recommended that the government could have youth case workers employed similar to ‘angadwadi’ workers. These case workers can recommend resource allocation per YLC in a given district or neighbourhood for accommodation, health and training needs. The youth workers can refer the YLC to agencies that impart life-skills training, along with assisting them in obtaining documentation papers for their Aadhar cards, ration cards, metro travel cards, health insurance, higher education, etc.

- Provision of legal documents
- Enabling career guidance and mental health counselling
- Provision of appropriate medical aid
- Provision of marriage and relationship counselling.
- Provision of referral services

Mr. Harsh Mander responded by saying that a ‘Suvidha Kendra’ for youth that maintains record-keeping mechanism is a good idea as the youth can update their information and their needs can be systematically documented. Mr. Mander further said that for insurance and social protection, many kinds of identity documents are required to be given by each child-care institution. Should this mandate not be provided by the CCI, it should be

“We need professional backers to create guidance for first generation learners in form of a youth counselling service.”

- Mr. Harsh Mander
fined or reprimanded. Moreover, a monitoring mechanism should be in place that ensures that CCIs that fail to comply with these standards are appropriately penalised.

Dr. Kiran Modi referred to the challenges of constant scrutiny of CCIs from a compliance perspective even as the CCIs strive towards providing the best possible care with limited resources. Children who face desertion need emotional support and attention of staff but compliance and paper work pull away emotive energy. The push towards deinstitutionalisation needs to take into account that alternate care systems have to be strengthened and families need to be assisted to be out of vulnerability that propels them to abandon their children.

As the group deliberated further, they developed the idea of a Bed, Breakfast and Care ("BBC") scheme that was well-received by the Delhi government representatives and the other participants equally. If a neighbourhood community heeds to a request to participate in such a service, it may be a win-win situation for both empty nesters as well as young adults in need for shelter and accommodation. However, we need to be cautious so that these young adults are not employed as unpaid domestic help or face any kind of rights’ violation or exploitation. Mr. Mander added that such a service can be managed and run by YLC themselves. In this manner, a paying-guest (PG) system that could be relationship-oriented may be initiated.

**FGD 3 – Envisaging a Youth Leaving Care Association (YLCA)**

The third group’s discussion focussed on the steps required to set up a YLCA. Members of the group focused on methods by which the youth could organize themselves, and resources they would require to do so. The presentation of the discussions, on behalf of the entire group, was done by Mr. Aditya Charegoankar, an alumnus of SOS Children’s Village, Pune, and Mr. Manoj, an alumnus of Don Bosco Ashalayam. They collectively asserted their right to dignity and to be treated as responsible citizens. Mr. Aditya began by saying that they require mobilization workshops; and a government system to recognize and train the YLC as a constituency. Giving YLC the responsibility to gather resources for themselves can be done by providing guidance and support in terms of infrastructure, referral services, training and education facilities, etc.

The entire gathering welcomed the agenda of forming a Youth Leaving Care Association (YLCA). It will provide the much needed psychological support by connecting peers to each other and generate professional aid in various matters. YLCA will be a forum which bases itself on human
rights and responsibilities, rather than sympathy or charity. YLCA will be like a family, a portal to share experiences, conduct seminars, and resolve each other’s issues.

The main points that came up during this discussion included:

- **Need for peer support, professional aid and mentoring to become economically independent and emotionally resilient**

- **To become socially integrated, the YLC will need spaces, services and resources such that they have a basis to contribute to community with their engagement at local levels. Social engineering needs to be attempted to integrate YLC into the mainstream society.**

- **Requirement of sensitization from government to set up and nurture a group of mentoring adults to Support for Youth Leaving Care. This group in Delhi trains the YLC as a lobbying power that can negotiate changes that affect their own lives.**

- **Youth-centred approach demands a one-window system that ensures coordinated delivery of services, not only from the Department of Women and Child Development, but also from Ministry of Health and Education, Skill Development, Youth Affairs and other relevant departments.**

- **The YLCA would be created once the young adults can begin to create a peer network through digital social platforms, such as Facebook and WhatsApp.**

- **Youth annual festivals will need sponsorships to bring all young adults to one platform. Information regarding government schemes, job fairs, walk-in interviews, guidance to obtain identity documents etc. may be few services provided at such fairs.**

- **Creation of self-help groups (SHGs) that would enable entrepreneurship and work ownership amongst the YLC.**

In response to these recommendations, Mr. Harsh Mander said that young adults must also have a safe space to experience joy and cheer in their daily lives. Maintaining friendships and social relationships is an important aspect; retreats and recreational activities need to be organized so that each YLC is provided with holistic development opportunity to strengthen the YLCA as a collective. The government systems need to ensure documentation, social protection and offer a grievance redressal system that are not over institutionalized.

Mr. Ramesh Negi responded that DCPCR will support YLC to mainstream them in every possible way and to begin with DCPCR could set up a cell where any YLC could walk in and call to reach assistance.
For the fourth group, the area of discussion was research and development which focused on defining “adequate mainstreaming” for a young adult leaving care as stated in the JJ Act (2015). Moreover, the need for a MIS tracking mechanism and the need to compute a basic budget were also discussed under the broad theme of research and development. According to the representative of the group the following were the key points that had been discussed:

- The term “adequate mainstreaming” is extremely subjective and should have defined parameters to set standards such as: finance, education, employability, social functioning, relationships, health (physical and mental), etc.
- We need specific and basic indicators, not broad indicators to define “adequate mainstreaming”, “reintegration” and “rehabilitation” of young adults
- To compute a budget for YLC, the total number of such young adults should be known
- Conducting longitudinal studies is important as it will help to study the effects of interventions
- An MIS tracking and evaluation mechanism for the youth in Delhi is required. Such a mechanism should be able to record the progress of each YLC based on their individual care plan. Their tracking and monitoring plan may be linked to the YLCA or the government Suvidha Kendra to create a one-stop integrated program.
Conclusion

Ms. Aneesha Wadhwa, Trustee, Udayan Care

Ms. Aneesha Wadhwa concluded the half-day’s consultation with a vote of thanks to the panellists and all the participants. She reiterated that this consultation made it possible for the YLC to represent themselves, and provided a forum for their voice. The key takeaways for the half-day’s deliberations were:

- Each of us can be a spokesperson for the YLC. Estimating the number of young adults in need for aftercare is critical to ensure adequate planning, budgeting and an overall understanding of the magnitude of the issue

- Government budget for aftercare must be put together such the youth empowerment agenda follows a wholesome child protection framework

- ICPS is the only scheme that caters to aftercare which in itself forms a negligible part of the Union Budget. More such schemes in favour of YLC need to be formulated

- Creative, ground-based solutions made by Group 2 made innovative suggestions such as Bed Breakfast and Care (BBC) and Suvidha Kendras that provide spaces that youth can call their own

- YLCA in Delhi was a pioneering discussion. Young adults assumed ownership of their own issues and were eager to resolve them with minimal support and supervision. They articulated their need for infrastructural support and resources to become a recognized group and a lobbying power

The consultation ended on a positive note as it gave hope and courage to all who were present. Together, with the findings from the research conducted by Udayan Care, and the points that emerged from the consultation, an advocacy note for aftercare programming is developed, which is attached as annexure 1.

The life of youth, who have been socialized in settings other than family-centric, has many challenges. It also has the huge opportunity to be free of social dogmas, and to think out of the box. The group that gathered to be in ‘Support of the Youth Leaving Care (SYLC)’ was full of excitement and eagerness. The quality of discussion proved that everyone present thought of the
other as equals, without baggage of culture, norms and frameworks. Only one thought guided all
during the sessions - how can we support youth leaving care. SYLC will be a core group of
stakeholders who aim to achieve a smooth transition for young adults from their CCIs to
independent adulthood. Through more such consultations and workshop, SYLC will continue to
meet in 2018 to take forward the agenda initiated by Udayan Care, DWCD, DCPCR, and Plan India.
SYLC’s mission would be to work in coordination to develop a brighter future for the youth care
leavers of India.

Post Script

A small group of the YLC met after the
event to understand what they could do in
Delhi to further their cause. These included
youth from SOS Villages of India, Don
Bosco and Udayan Care. The group decided
to connect with each other to set up an
informal Whatsapp group and eventually
set up a Facebook page to post information
that will help them deal with their present
issues. They look forward to formation of
SYLC to feel the warmth of a caring
community to assist them to realise their mainstreamed selves.

At a sequel meeting DCPCR expressed their willingness to steer the aftercare agenda in Delhi.
Towards this it is imperative that a few CCIs and aftercare facilities formally form the Support for
Youth Leaving Care (SYLC) such that the Youth Leaving Care can be mentored to develop as an
independent agency of their own called Care Leaver Association and Network (CLAN).
Recommendations

It clearly emerged from the consultation that current aftercare is seen as a responsibility and duty to be carried on by a few organisations that work with youth. Most stakeholders do not seem to understand or apply the rights-based approach when it comes to aftercare. The fulfilment of these rights should be specified as duties of different stakeholders including the YLC, staff members of CCIs, aftercare organizations, community, corporations and all other service providers. The task of visualizing and co-creating an accountable aftercare program for all YLC in Delhi needs a group of people who have dealt with children and youth living in alternative care settings to associate in an advocacy platform. This group can be called SYLC (Supporting Youth Leaving Care) that consists of both government and non government agencies that have the mandate to promote aftercare policy and practice for the state of Delhi. The articulation of a common aftercare agenda will assist to bring a caring group together.
Some common recommendations for advocacy for each stakeholder that emerged as a consensus at the consultation are mentioned follows:

**Recommendations for the Central Government**

- Define ‘Youth’ as a stakeholder having a right to aftercare in the JJ Act 2015: The nomenclature of Youth Leaving Care (YLC) is suggested for children who are exiting the formal care system and foster care. This definition should ensure that any child who has been taken into care (CCI or foster care) once has access to an adult stakeholder taking responsibility for care as well as aftercare.

- Include aftercare agenda in the Youth Policy of India: The Youth policy of the Govt. of India needs the mention of aftercare as an affirmative action of the state that situates aftercare as a right of all YLC. The suggested inclusion from a multi-stakeholders consultation organised by Udayan Care in 2014 on aftercare is “Every Youth Leaving Care (YLC) at the age of 18 has a right to aftercare till they are fully mainstreamed into society (aligned with the JJ Act, ICPS and UN Guidelines on alternative care 2009 that mentions rehabilitation, reintegration and restoration for YLC at 18 years of age)

- Include children exiting from foster care and those under group foster care in the definition of aftercare under the JJ Act 2015. Currently under the JJ law, only children exiting out of CCIs have a right to aftercare benefits

- Re-consider the age limits for aftercare in the JJ act 2015 as well as its rules and the ICPS. A pre aftercare entitlement needs to be introduced as a legal right such that youth are eligible for planning, preparation and training for aftercare at the age of 16 when they are still at the CCI. The existing law specifies that after care begins at the age of 18 ceases at age 21, with a flexibility for two years. While defining the beneficiaries for aftercare services, the is a need to also look at other considerations such as readiness, skill set, mental age and each case after 21 years of age should be decided on a case to case basis. A service provision with budgets should be allocated for the YLC for all three phases of aftercare from the age of 16 years of pre-aftercare till 25 years of age for post-aftercare support keeping in view case requirements such as readiness, skill set, job readiness, mental age as well as the kind of adult guardian the youth may have.

- Define ‘mainstreaming’ in the JJ Act 2015 and its Rules such that full rehabilitation and reintegration of YLC is understood for schematic and budget implications mentioned as SOP for pre, during and post aftercare phase for each child in a CCI through an administrative order.

- Define ‘rehabilitation and reintegration’ in the JJ Act 2015 through an administrative order to plan how all YLC are to be reintegrated in the society. Rehabilitation could be with a family that may take in the youth and reintegration should mean making youth a part of a
community and neighbourhood through specified work that is links the youth with ‘Mohalla Samitti’ and the RWA of the area where the YLC stays. The need to feel rooted to a geographical area and its people can be created by orienting the youth in CCI when they turn 16 years old. Community outreach projects can be planned where youth intern to work with communities who stay and work near the CCI. Rehabilitation and reintegration cannot be done by YLC alone for this the definition should involve stake holders responsibilities.

- Stakeholders need to be listed in ICPS rules along with their responsibilities as:
  - Child Care Institutions (CCI) responsibility is to prepare individual care plan and release plan with consent of the youth at 16 years of age to hand over IDs such as Aadhar Card, Pan Card and Election Card before YLC leaves care of the CCI at 18 years of age and to link the youth through a vibrant neighbourhood outreach campaign.
  - Corporate responsibility under their CSR is to fund aftercare services and training in a PPP mode. They should partner with CCIs/aftercare programmes to provide for hostels, scholarships, health insurance, travel bursaries to YLC to attend learning programmes, provide internship opportunities and support mentoring projects
  - NCPCR responsibility is to create a contact directory for YLC to access support for health insurance and care, educational and vocational support, life skills, financial skills, internships and jobs and mentorship.
  - MWCD/DCPU/CWC responsibility is to maintain a national data base of all children under foster care and institutional care at the age of 16 such that an yearly allowance to aftercare agency/ YLC account for renting adequate housing, and paying for food, transport and communication, health and education can be dispensed from 16 to 25 years of age as per needs.

- Institute a reservation for children living in all forms of alternative care nationally in education, health and jobs\(^2\). MWCD and NCPCR should institute this reservation at the central and state government level, and should be implemented at the state level.

- Maintain records and compute the numbers of YLC and make available to stake holders such that a tracking mechanism can be set for mainstreaming at district level. This also entails keeping records of the number of children in all forms of alternative care at every district level so that no child is left behind.

\(^2\) By using the precedent of Maharashtra, Government whereby it has reserved 1% for education and employment
• Put in place specific time bound schemes and budgetary commitments and spent transparently on every YLC.

• MWCD should strengthen civil society to gain access to government schemes on skill development, health insurance and allocation of space in Suvidha Kendras and hostels to become a provider of information that assists YLC to get rehabilitated and reintegrated by accessing quality services provided by aftercare service providers.

• The NCPCR should facilitate SYLC to set up information, referral service in each state that is linked to a national service which ensures that data on each YLC is registered with a competent authority along with a care and Individual care plan that is linked to referrals.

• The NCPCR to recommend that all State Child rights Commissions to set up a grievance cell for YLC in all state capitals of India.

Recommendations for the State Government of Delhi

In an attempt to bring forth a core team to promote aftercare policy and programme for Delhi, Udayan Care postulates that stakeholders will need to converge periodically to set up SYLC as an autonomous body to constitute an aftercare service in each district of Delhi with responsibilities clearly spelt out.

• Immediately notify the JJ Rules as soon as possible

• Immediately issue a notification instituting reservation of a minimum of 1% for all children living in CCIs in Delhi for education, health and jobs

• Set up a convergence programme with its various departments such as youth affairs, industry, social welfare education and health to offer aftercare services that include livelihood strengthening for the YLC

• Offer Aftercare services through a public private partnership (PPP) model that calls upon CSR funding to run one window aftercare services in each district

• Create SOPs for staff in the pre, during and post aftercare process for each youth who comes out of a CCI in a transparent way after consulting SYLC and other NGOs working on aftercare

• Make it mandatory for all CCI in Delhi to have an aftercare programme
• Support SYLC in the formation of a registered Care Leavers Association and Network (CLAN) consisting of Youth Leaving Care and women SHGs\(^3\) federated from local units to a district wide network

• Implement the JJ Act 2015 and ICPS through a pilot aftercare facility that mainstreams all YLC present in a district. This pilot can be run in three districts\(^4\) where the YLC need to be first registered in the government portal to be identified for tracking and to assess their needs. Their Individual care plans would then be linked to group training for jobs and enterprises with local communities in neighbourhoods of a district as a mainstreaming effort. This mainstreaming role needs to be clearly stated in the job descriptions of welfare officers/social workers in CCIs and aftercare institutions

**Recommendations for the DCPCR**

• Notify itself as grievance cell for all YLC in the state and facilitates SYLC to set up information and referral services

• Ensure that the interest of CLAN are incorporated in the City Master Plans by offering Youth and women’s SHGs access to built infrastructure with furniture and internet facilities in existing *Suvidha Kendras* to set up and provide information, learning and income generating activities.

• Ensure allocation of subsidized rations and admissions in Youth hostels for YLC. While the pilot can begin in the districts that situate Lajpat Nagar home, Nirmal Chhaya for girls and Alipore home for the boys as a start up, scaling up to other districts can be researched upon to include both NGO and Government aftercare institutions in other districts.

• Prepare and disseminate ready reckoner on rights and responsibilities of YLC need to be printed by State Child Right Commission and distributed to each youth in care when they complete 15 years of age at the CCI.

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\(^3\) Reintegration in society can be done by YLC working with women groups in a community. This is an inclusion strategy that asks for a government space for YLC to work, learn and live for short stay in existing *Suvidha Kendra*. Both women and youth do not inherit properties from their families. They thus lack the skill of managing property. This demotivates them to even think in terms of acquiring assets and property in their own names. This block needs to be removed through an inclusion strategy. The planning for this engagement shall be done with local women SHGs who visit the community centre to access facilities run by NGOs. Both women and youth can use a portion of the Suvidha Kendra as a safe transit space to recoup when they face difficult times such as having lack of accommodation or dealing with domestic violence. This working together of youth and women is a much needed alliance between those who can complement each other in learning IT skill and to manage the Suvidha Kendra infrastructure. It is advocated that a team of women and youth are given the contract to manage the Suvidha Kendra building.
Recommendations for the CCI

- Each CCI should make the development plan of the youth within the rights and needs as per the JJ Act.
- NGOs and CCIs work towards building a training curriculum\(^5\) for DCPU and provide technical support to make the district pilots work to reach to each YLC.
- Categorize the YLC in Delhi according to the kind of adult guardians they have (no adult guardian, unsafe guardian, capable of aftercare guardian) and skill base of the YLC such that relevant aftercare services as per need can be provided.

Recommendations for the Youth Leaving Care (YLC) and CLAN

- Meet regularly with each other to understand collective needs to stand up for their rights.
- YLC agree to be members of CLAN - an association that can follow up on needs, rights and responsibilities of the YLC in Delhi and demand from the Government allocations for:
  - Demand for adequate financial assistance for health insurance, education, vocational training, equipment, living allowance including all utilities, coaching, interning, counselling, transport, free ship for education and enterprise grants
  - Infrastructure base for aftercare service providers in either existing Suvidha Kendras or to get land on lease from the government to provide new housing/ training halls

\(^{5}\) The curriculum will have pedagogical aspects on life skills curriculum, tools to measure participation of Children in institutions and YLC in their own reintegration and rehabilitation for example through fellowships to learn while earning
and networking spaces for networking with adequate budgets to build and maintain toilets/water and electricity, information and internet access and congregate into SHGs with women in local neighbourhoods where *Suvidha Kendras* are situated.

- Services to obtain ration card, passport, aadhar card, and other identity and allocation documents
- Enrol themselves to get into mentoring relationships to get guidance for relevant coaching programmes required for their development.
- CLAN to negotiate benefits from a convergence programme of government departments and private aftercare services
- Lobby for 1% reservations in education, job placement and youth hostels
- Link with local women’s groups and SHGs, RWAs and *Mohalla Samittis* to know basic governance issues in local area management; and assume responsibility to ensure sustainability of collective resources
- Connect with children in institutions to mentor them to develop their individual care plan and their release plan in accordance with the ICPS
- Develop a ‘Mentors’ Pool’ for the above
- Constantly lobby for developing and maintaining a YLC tracking database, and ensure that you are registered
- Educate yourself on how local area development plans fit into the city master plan to ensure your inclusion for safety, security and sustainability of you in a community.
Annexure 1 -
Consultation programme schedule

Casuarinas Room, Indian Habitat Centre

Agenda:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am - 9.30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>9.30 am - 10 am</td>
<td>Dr. Kiran Modi, Udayan Care (UC): Welcome note and sharing objectives of consultation</td>
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<td>Ms. Rita Singh, Member Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR)</td>
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<td>Ms. Chesta Yadav, Assistant Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Delhi</td>
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<td>Ms. Poonam Mehta, Plan India, Senior Programme Manager</td>
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<td>Ms. Karishma, Udayan Care Alumnus, YLC representative</td>
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<td>10.00 am - 10.30 am</td>
<td>Ms. Rini Bhargava, Udayan Care, Coordinator Advocacy</td>
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<td>Ms. Shubhangi Kansal, Udayan Care, Research Associate</td>
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<td>Ms. Riti Chandrashekhar, Udayan Care, Research Associate</td>
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<td>Sharing the preliminary finding from Udayan Care and DCPCR study</td>
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<td>10.30 am - 11.45 am</td>
<td>Group work to visualize an aftercare pilot scheme.</td>
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<td>12.00 pm – 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Presentations by the groups to a panel consisting of Shri Ramesh Negi, Chairman, DCPCR, Mr. Amod Kanth, Prayas, Mr. Harsh Mander, Centre for Equity, and Dr. Kiran Modi, Udayan Care</td>
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<td>Moderated by Dr. Shivani Bhardwaj, Sr. Consultant, Udayan Care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00 pm - 1.30 pm</td>
<td>Summing up by Ms. Aneesha Wadhwa, Trustee, Udayan Care</td>
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Annexure 2 - List of participants

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<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Aftercare home for boys, Alipur</td>
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<td>Alembic</td>
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<td>Aman Biradari</td>
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<td>Bachpan Bachao Andolan</td>
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<td>Caritas India</td>
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<td>Centre of Excellence in Alternative Care</td>
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<td>Counsel To Serve Justice</td>
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<td>Bachpan Bachao Andolan</td>
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<td>DCPCR</td>
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<td>Dighambhar Mahila Jain Ashram</td>
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<td>Paul Hamlyn Foundation</td>
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<td>Plan India</td>
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<td>Prayas observation home for boys</td>
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<td>Tata Institute of Social Sciences</td>
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<td>Udayan Care</td>
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