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Foyer meets DWP Minister as part of Housing Benefit campaign

Youth homeless charity Foyer will meet Work and Pensions Minister James Plaskitt MP today, as part of a campaign to abolish benefit regulations preventing homeless young people from full time work or study.

The meeting, hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Foyers, forms part of Foyer's *give us a chance* campaign.

Posters in Westminster tube station highlighting the issue faced by young people living in UK Foyers. They also direct people to the campaign website: www.giveusachance.net

Foyer's Chief Executive, Jane Slowey, said:

"Too many Foyer residents have been forced to choose between their home and their education as a result of benefit regulations. We're calling on Government to abolish the 16 Hour Rule and give homeless young people the support they need to build themselves a future."

Kasim Din, a resident at Focus Foyer in Birmingham, said:

"If I start a full time course I will be unable to pay my rent and will be forced to move out of the Foyer, making me homeless. I cannot get a full time job while studying full time. All I want to do is study so I can get a good job and contribute to society."

Notes to editors

1. Foyer is calling for the abolition of the 16 Hour Housing Benefit Rule which prevents young people aged over 19 and claiming housing benefit and forces them to choose between their home or their education. For more information, please visit www.giveusachance.net
2. Since launching in 1992, the UK Foyer network has grown to over 130 local Foyers supporting more than 10,000 homeless 16 to 25 year-olds each year, giving them a chance to realise their full potential. They enable young people at risk to escape the 'no home-no job-no home' cycle by delivering a holistic service that integrates accommodation with training, job search, personal support and motivation. For more information about Foyers, please visit www.foyer.net



3. For interviews, photographs or more information, please contact Sophie Livingstone on 020 7430 2212/07967 104695 or Sophie@foyer.net