

Findings of the research about the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales Pilot.



This is the mid-point
report in a 4-year
research project.



What is the Basic Income Pilot?



The Welsh Government is giving **£1600** before tax each month for two years. This is for care leavers aged **18-20**.

Most care leavers lived in foster care or children's homes before they were 18.



The pilot was for care leavers who had an 18th birthday between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

644 young people have been part of the pilot.



The research team is looking at 5 things over 4 years:

1

What difference has the basic income made for the young people?

2

How has the pilot worked?

3

What have been people's experiences?

4

How does the pilot fit with other support for care leavers in Wales?

5

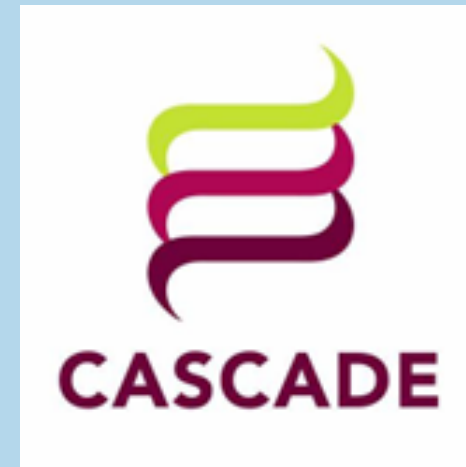
How much money does it cost or save?



The Team

CASCADE research centre in Cardiff University is leading the research. We are working with researchers from four other universities. The research is funded by Welsh Government.

We are also working with a group of young adults who are care leavers. They were too old to get the basic income. They make sure we ask the right questions in the right ways.



What have we done so far?

412

young people completed **surveys** at the start of the pilot.

2/3

That is around two-thirds of the total receiving the basic income.

Interviews with:

- 41 professionals
- 44 young people receiving the basic income
- 8 adult supporters of young people



What have we done so far?

We observed meetings of professionals discussing the basic income pilot.

We've read government documents about the basic income pilot.

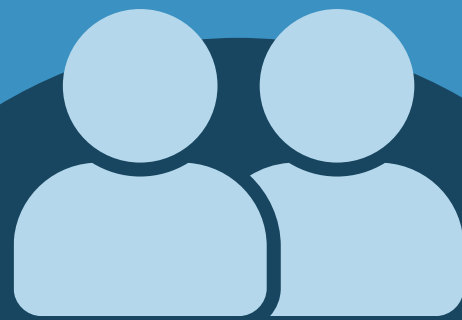
We've drawn up a theory about how the basic income pilot works.



What have we found out?

The surveys show that:

The young people receiving the basic income are similar to other care leavers.



At age 18:

- 42% were studying
- 22% were working or training
- They had lower well-being than 18 year olds who are not care leavers




- More than 50% lived with friends, relatives or foster carers
- 35% rented a room or flat
- 4% were homeless
- 87% have someone they can trust



This survey measures the starting point.

Young people will fill in the survey again at age 20.


In the first year of the pilot, professionals said:



Care leavers need extra support.


Young people had more chances with basic income. This includes learning to drive, saving, changing career, mixing with others and having holidays.

Many worried that some young people faced too many life challenges. The money might make things worse for them.



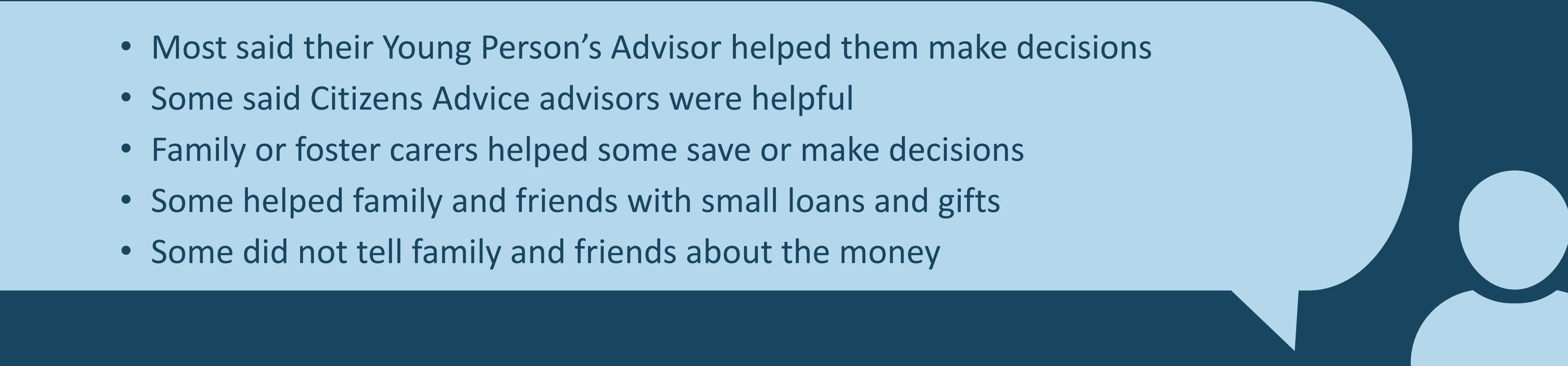
Some worried that 18 was too young for a basic income.

Many thought that young people should have to do something to get the money.



In the first year young people on the pilot said:

- 
- Care leavers were the right group to get the basic income
 - 18-20 was the right age
 - The money was the right amount

- 
- Most said their Young Person's Advisor helped them make decisions
 - Some said Citizens Advice advisors were helpful
 - Family or foster carers helped some save or make decisions
 - Some helped family and friends with small loans and gifts
 - Some did not tell family and friends about the money

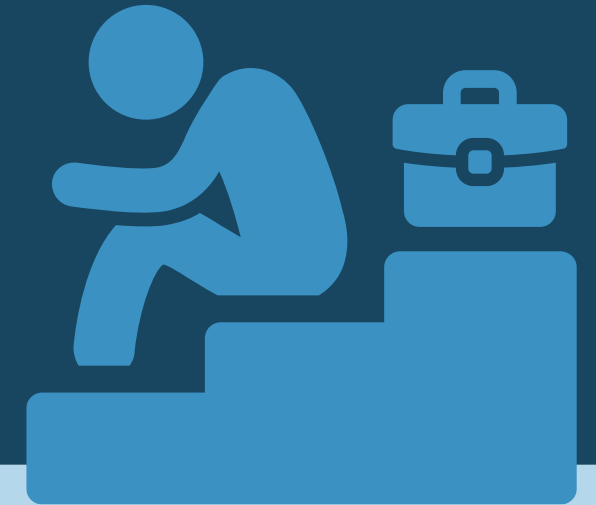
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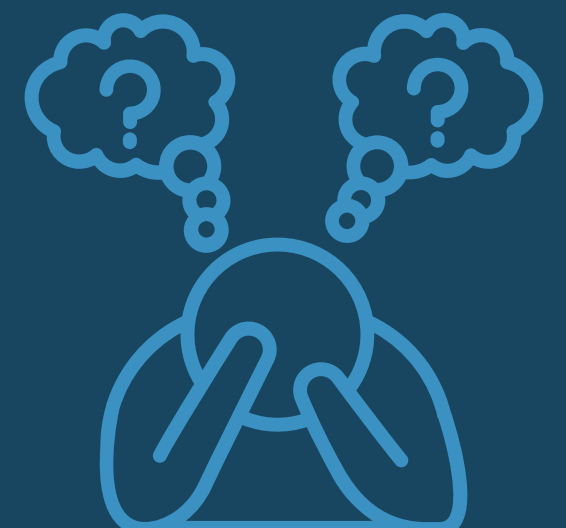
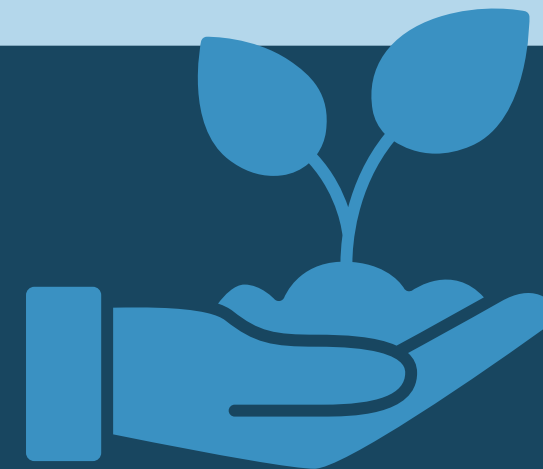
- They learned more about how to spend and save in the first few months
- Many saved for a car, driving lessons, university or just the future
- They were able to do more things with friends
- Some were eating better and doing more sport and activities



In the first year young people on the pilot said:



- Many said their mental health and wellbeing is better
- Some said they have more choices and control over jobs and college
- Some were struggling to find jobs
- Many were worried or unsure about when the basic income stops



How was the basic income pilot rolled out?

The basic income pilot was complicated and had to be rolled out quickly. Some professionals thought they didn't know enough at the start. They wanted to be more prepared.



But the professionals said the Welsh Government team answered their questions quickly. They made some changes they suggested.



How was the basic income pilot rolled out?



Citizens Advice staff give young people advice about money:

- They have seen hundreds of young people
- Some reported that young people did not ask for advice
- It was difficult to contact some of the young people



- The income was paid to young people on time
- Rent is much higher in supported housing compared to other housing
- Some young people have less money after rent than others
- Some politicians did not agree with giving the money to all care leavers



The Welsh Government stuck to the plan.



What happens next with the research?

Over the next two years we will report:

- What young people and professionals say at the end of basic income pilot
- The difference between young people who got the basic income and those who didn't
- Costs and savings for the government



To find more detail about our research you can download the longer reports here:

[Annual Report 2023 to 2024](#)

[Annual Report 2024 to 2025](#)