

Intersecting Identities: A secondary qualitative exploration of intersectionality in care leavers housing transition experiences

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Abstract

Care leavers are amongst the most vulnerable populations in society (Biehal and Wade 1999). Substantial evidence in the field of care leavers research argues that care leavers face more barriers and inequalities to housing transitions compared to children and young people who are not leaving local authority care. Various care leaver, youth and youth transitions theorists and researchers suggest why this might be and what more can be done to improve housing transition experiences and outcomes for young people leaving local authority care. However, little research exists that investigates the role and impact of intersectionality in the care leaver housing transition experience. Although intersectionality theory has been a dominant theoretical perspective in the sociology and social policy discipline since the 21st century, it remains underdeveloped and underexplored in care leavers housing research and UK housing research in general (McKee et al. 2024). This dissertation aims to contribute research findings to help fill this gap. The findings in this dissertation evidence Kimberlé Crenshaw's intersectionality theory. For care leavers, identity interaction often has a negative impact on the housing transition experience and creates additional barriers and inequalities. A minority of the findings challenge intersectionality theory; however, these findings reveal the significance of adequate support and the complexity of the housing transition experience for care leavers