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**DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER**

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The Way Ahead Project Aim

- To support the Raising of Aspirations, Achievement Rates and Participation in Further and Higher Education of Looked after Children





- Seconded to this Aimhigher Project for 3 years
- Academic specialism is Biology but prison teaching opened my eyes to the educational barriers for Looked After Children (LAC)

Research

- 187 children included in longitudinal study
- Gender balance and ethnic origins comparable with national statistics for LAC
- Educational and care histories were tracked

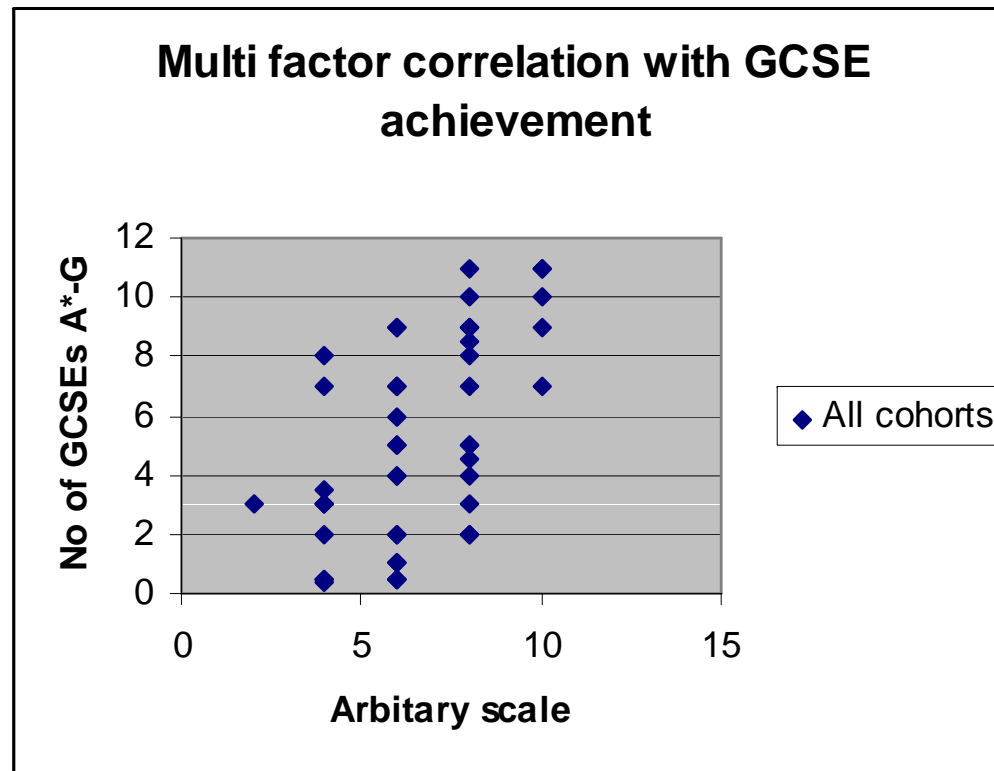
Factors analysed

- Age of entry to care
- Time in care
- Placement moves
- School moves
- SEN Statements
- School GCSE pass rates
- GCSE achievement (A*-G)

Multi factor influence

- Gender – Male LAC tend to achieve less well at KS 4 than females
- Statement of SEN
- Year 10/11 school move
- More than 10 placements in care lifetime
- More than 3 placements in any one year

Multi factor influence



LAC & Higher Education

- Only approximately 6% of LAC progress to HE
- More support is now in place for LAC so more will progress to HE
- HEIs need to be prepared
- De Montfort University has been awarded the Frank Buttle Trust Quality mark

DMU & LAC

- Encourage recruitment e.g. Summer schools
- HEI staff awareness training
- Close liaison with schools/colleges
- 52 week accommodation
- Dedicated student support staff
- £1000/year bursary from 2007

LAC at DMU

- 25 LAC have identified themselves on their UCAS forms and are enrolled this academic session.
- 23 are receiving the bursary and 2 are repeating the year
- Each academic year numbers have increased with 13 new students in 09/10

LAC awareness

- Take care when addressing students to consider if they may be from a care background
- Be mindful of the barriers they have overcome and try not to put more barriers in their way

Transitions Team

- Looked After Children are supported by the Transitions Team in Student Support at DMU