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Update report on Education, Employment and Training - Leaving Care Service.

Purpose

- 1.1 This report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Committee with an update with regards to Education, Employment and Training (EET) outcomes for Care Experienced young people and to update the committee with regards to the work of the EET Development Board.
- 1.2 To update the Corporate Parenting committee with regards to additional developments undertaken to improve EET outcomes for Care Experienced young people.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To ensure senior managers and Corporate Parenting Board members are aware of the ongoing performance of the Leaving Care Service with regards to EET outcomes and to note the developments of the EET Board and progress of developments such as the apprenticeship scheme.

Reasons

- 3.1 To ensure senior managers and all Corporate Parenting Board members have a clear line of sight into priority areas of performance for People Services across the year.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The most recent EET data for Care Leavers that Derby City is responsible for at the end of Quarter 3 2022-23 (end-December 2022), the percentage of care experienced young people aged 19-21 living in Derby in EET was 59.4%.

In comparison:

- In the previous quarter (Q2 2022-23 - end of September 2022) the percentage was 58.3%
- One year ago, quarter (Q3 2021-22 - end of December 2021) the percentage was 60.7%
- Previous (Q3 2020-21 - end of December 2020) the percentage was 54.8%.

At the end of quarter 3 2022-23 (the end of December 2022), the percentage of care experienced young people 19-21 living outside Derby in EET was 76.6%

In comparison:

- In the previous quarter (Q2 2022-23, the end of September 2022), the percentage was 66.0%
- One year ago (Q3 2021-22, end of December 2021) the percentage was 59.6%.
- Previous (Q3 2020-21, end of December 2020), the percentage was 59.4%.

There has been a gradual improvement in our EET outcomes for care experienced young people in this age group which is encouraging but we would like to improve more rapidly for those living in Derby.

Comparable data with regards to our comparator Local Authorities, East Midland Local Authorities and Nationally can be seen below:

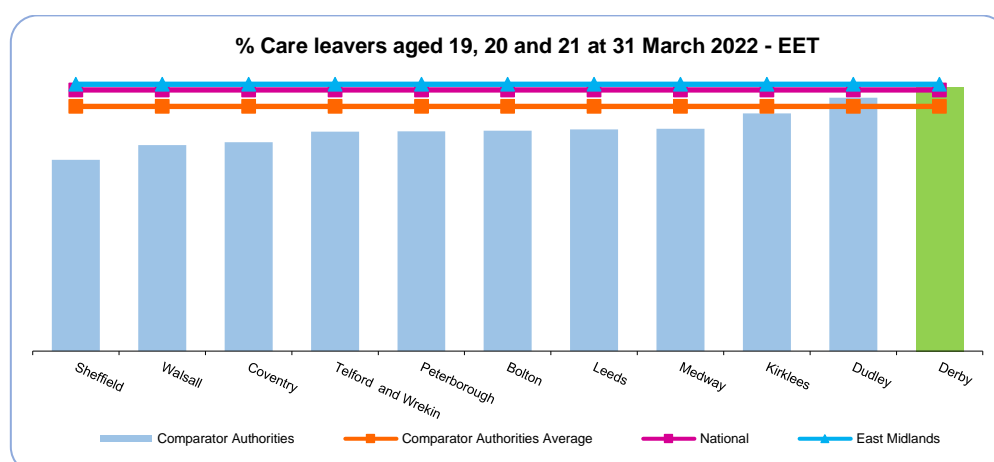
Data from statistical year 2021-22: (Policy and Insight Report Library, Care Leavers benchmarking report 2021-22)

This data is broken down by age but from last year's data we can evidence how we compare locally and nationally and how we are improving our outcomes as a Local Authority.

Care leavers 19 to 21 in Education, Employment or Training (EET)

Derby had 205 qualifying care leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 years on 31 March 2022 and of these 116 were in Education, Employment or Training (EET). This equates to a percentage of 56.6% which is a slight decrease from the 2021-22 percentage of 57.3%.

However, Derby remains above the 2021-22 national average (55.4%) and the comparator authority average (51.9%). Derby had the highest performance in our comparator authority group.



In 2021-22, 32% of Derby's care experienced young people were in Training or Employment. This is well above the 2021-22 national figure of 24% and the comparator authority average of 25%.

3% of Derby's care experienced young people were in Higher Education which is lower than the 2021-22 national (7%) and comparator authority figures (5%).

19% of Derby's care experienced young people were in Further Education. This is lower than the 2021-22 national average of 23%.

Care leavers 17 to 18 in Education, Employment or Training (EET)

Derby had 80 qualifying care leavers aged 17 or 18 on 31 March 2022 and of these 50 were in Education, Employment or Training (EET). This equates to a percentage of 62.5% which is a decrease from the 2020-21 percentage of 68.8%.

Derby is below the 2021-22 national average (66.5%), the comparator authority average (64.8%) and the East Midlands average (69.2%).

Derby is ranked mid-table when compared to our comparator authorities. Sheffield had the lowest performance with 55.8% whilst Peterborough achieved 76.8%.

It is also noted that outcomes for our 17- and 18-year-olds are not what we would want them to be and we will need to analyse the underlying causes of this. However, there has been an increase in numbers of young people coming into care later (aged 16 or 17), which may have adversely affected outcomes. Coming into care at this stage of a young person's life can be incredibly challenging. A further report will be developed to identify the potential causes for this dip in performance for this age group and a focus on our 17- & 18-year-old care experienced young people will be undertaken by Leaving Care Service in 2023.

NB. A snapshot of our current levels of EET for 17 and 18 care experienced young people indicates that as of end of January 2023 the percentage is 66%, which is very close to the national average as of March 22 of 66.5%

- 4.2 The following section of the report will outline the activities that have taken place over the past 12 months to further improve the outcome for care experienced young people.

Developments

- 4.3 The care experienced young people's EET Development Board has continued to meet in the last 12 months. The single referral process that was developed in partnership has been utilised by the Leaving Care Service and we have seen success in terms of outcomes, with care experienced young people being supported either via the Derby Adult Learning Service (DALs) or the Connexions service dependent upon age.
- 4.4 The EET Development Board have designed and delivered additional activities such as putting on an **EET Event** at the Derby Museum in the summer of 2022,

specifically aimed at care experienced young people, whereby services, providers and employers were present and able to interact informally with young people in order to introduce them to opportunities in the employment, training and education world in Derby and beyond. This event proved successful in terms of enabling some young people, furthest from the world of EET to engage positively and discuss their options.

In total over 20 services and employers attended, and we encouraged over 20 care experienced young people to attend who were currently NEET, many of whom had been NEET for some time.

5 young people who attended the event have since gone on to secure employment, one going onto college and one undertaking an online course.

This is a fantastic outcome, and we feel that such events can only help and encourage young people to see EET positively. Another event will be organised in 2023 based on the success of the 2022 event. Young people were not directly employed by those providers and employers who were present, but it did give young people the confidence to apply for opportunities which has great value.

The event also enabled Personal Advisers to establish contacts with employers directly and we are now better able to discuss individuals with them. We worked directly for example with Stepnell Construction with a young person who was exiting custody. This enabled the young person to experience some employability work and undertake a site visit which was positively received. Although, at this point in time it did not result in an offer of employment it did provide them with an insight into the industry.

Care experienced young people voiced their opinions of the event and one such comment can be seen below:

Care Experienced Young person. **'Really didn't want to come but so glad I did.'**

Development Board update

- 4.5 The Board's aims are to address and meet the needs of those NEET care experienced young people within the city, some of whom have been NEET for some time and who have multiple challenges and barriers to overcome. The board also aims to share information across the partnership to offer support and develop opportunities to care experienced young people and increase the numbers of care experienced young people into EET.

However, we want to do more. The Board has therefore been consulted in terms of amending its Terms of Reference (TOR) in order that we can address the individual needs of care experienced young people as a Board and play a more operational and active role in overcoming barriers and challenges that young people face.

We know from our engagement with young people that they can be understandably wary of providing information about themselves and are often reluctant to provide their written consent to share their personal information by way of a referral.

The Board has agreed to address individual cases and can undertake discussions anonymously where written consent is not secured.

There was an agreement across the board for this amendment and the Terms of Reference are currently being amended and will be ratified at the next meeting in March 2023.

The Board members however want to maintain their developmental approach as the feedback from members is that they greatly value being able to share information and make contacts across the board and explore new ideas and developments and to put on further EET events in 2023.

4.6 **Monitoring and tracking progress.**

Our aim was to develop a recording system within the data base used by Childrens Services. (Liquid Logic) The monitoring and tracking of the DALs referral process is now able to be recorded within the Liquid Logic (LCS) recording system.

We now have a process for recording the number of referrals made by Personal Advisers. We do not yet have enough data to develop a detailed report at this point in time. The aim of this process is to be able to provide reports on the number of referrals made and as support is provided to young people record what outcomes and destinations were achieved.

There have been some capacity issues within DALs which have hindered this process somewhat, but we are currently working through some contingencies in this regard. We have however recorded the referral and outcome data separately and the outcomes are outlined below.

Referrals. We have captured the DALs referral data manually. This includes numbers of referrals made by Personal Advisor's and received by DALs.

In total, since inception of the DALs referral process there have been over 70 individual referrals in total.

Of which, 43 young people did not provide written consent to share their information.

Of the 27 who did give consent to share, 12 have subsequently moved on into a positive destination either employment or learning.

Of the 43 who did not provide consent; 9 subsequently turned 21 and did not access post 21 support and 2 moved out of the city and turned 21, so we do not have up to date EET data available.

Of the 31 remaining young people 8 have since moved into a positive destination.

It is therefore clear that where we can encourage young people to engage with the DALs referral process there is an improved chance of securing a positive destination.

What is also clear from further exploration is that those care experienced young people furthest away from EET in terms of their individual circumstances will continue to need the support and encouragement from their Personal Advisors to engage positively with the offer. This continues to be a central part of the support offered to care experienced young people by the Leaving Care Service via their Personal Advisers.

In terms of capturing the views of young people in relation to their experiences of being supported, this work is still in progress in terms of establishing some clear learning outcomes. Each care experienced young person's journey is unique. However, accessing regular feedback from young people to build a picture of what works is a piece of work we will be undertaking in 2023.

We will be going back to those care experienced young people who have experienced support through this process to capture their views over the coming year.

We did receive a positive response from young people who attended our EET event in summer 2022, so we are confident that this approach was well received, had a positive impact and is something we will be replicating in 2023.

Overall, we can say that the development of the DALs referral process has evidenced positive outcomes for care experienced young people, but we need to further develop the data capturing process so that we are better able to provide more detailed reports.

4.7 DCC apprenticeship scheme. Social Value Clauses.

Some progress has been made with regards to the DCC apprenticeship scheme although we are not as advanced as we would have hoped at this stage.

Apprenticeship opportunities are being shared with the Leaving Care service as soon as they become available and young people provided with the information accordingly.

We have updated the apprenticeship workbook which outlines the process in place and support offered for those care experienced young people who want to apply for DCC apprenticeships.

We still have more work to do to broaden the options available to care experienced young people to undertake work placements or taster days etc. within Council departments, but we have a positive relationship with the apprenticeship team and Connexions and this work will continue over the next 12 months to ensure we get care experienced young people into apprenticeships within the Council.

It is accepted that there are additional challenges in the current climate in terms of capacity, but we will continue to work collaboratively to effect change and successful take up of apprenticeship offers within the council.

In addition, care experienced young people are also a vulnerable group of young people who have been identified in terms of being beneficiaries of a new

approach to procurement whereby the social value impact of any contract awarded is given greater weight. The Leaving Care service is actively involved in developing what would be expected from prospective bidders. This work is at an early stage.

- 4.8 We continue to receive regular updates from a broad range of services offering opportunities to care experienced young people and these are shared with Personal Advisors, the board and other services to ensure that care experienced young people are offered a broad range of opportunities, this includes circulation of Derby Jobs weekly which have proved to be very popular.
- 4.9 Our EET outcomes are continuing to improve gradually, and we are confident that the work being undertaken by the service, the board and others is making a positive impact. We now feel that as the EET development board starts to address the needs of individuals that we will begin to see an even greater impact going forwards.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 N/A.

Other options

- 6.1 N/A.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 No additional resource required/other financial issues to note.

Legal implications

- 8.1 No Implications.

Other significant implications

- 9.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	NA	NA
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance	10.02.23
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim, Director for Early Help and Children's Social Care	10.02.23
Report sponsor	Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services	
Other(s)		
Background papers:		
List of appendices:		