

Leaving Care Topic Review

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members of the Inspiring Young People Board agreed, at its meeting on 12 September 2016, to carry out a topic review into leaving care.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Board on 14 November, consideration was given to the scope of a topic review and the following possible lines of enquiry were identified:
 - Suicide rates amongst care leavers
 - Review of the leaving care process
 - Gaining the perspective from young people who had gone through the process – is there a feedback process?
 - Review of the leaving care plan – can it be started earlier?
 - Review of leaving care guidance – is it too complex?
 - Consideration of best practice and comparative data
- 1.3 On 8 December Councillors Whitby, Hezelgrave and Roulstone met with Antony Mains, Leaving Care Team Manager, to discuss the Leaving Care Service.
- 1.4 At the meeting of the Board on 12 December, a report was presented on Leaving Care Service and following this the scope of the review above was agreed, with the following additions:
 - What numbers of care leavers are not in suitable accommodation?
 - Review of the funding for 'stay put'.
 - Speak to the Leaving Care Forum.
 - What numbers of care leavers are in custody and are the numbers in Derby higher than elsewhere?
 - What numbers of care leavers have mental health issues, such as self-harming?
 - Review of any links between the Department of Work and Pensions and TheSpace@Connexions.
 - What are the pregnancy rates amongst care leavers and how many of their children go into care? What mentoring can Ripplez provide?

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To agree that the leaving care topic review be carried over to the 2017/18 municipal year.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To enable work to continue on the topic review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council Constitution limits one topic review report to be submitted to the Council Cabinet every six months from Scrutiny Boards. It is possible for each Board to conduct two reviews in each municipal year. Topic reviews are not mandatory, but if the board wishes to conduct an in-depth review in the remaining eight months of the current year, it is suggested that members should aim to agree a topic for review at the earliest opportunity.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	David Walsh – Head of Democracy

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising directly from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

IT

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people and the very nature of the Board looks in depth at equality in all its investigations.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management

- 9.1 None arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 Our aim is to work together so that Derby and its people will enjoy a thriving sustainable economy, good health and well-being and an active cultural life. The work of this board contributes to the Council's big ambitions to give people in Derby 'an inspiring start in life', particularly by improving educational attainment. The work of the board also aims to support children and young people across the city in getting the most out of their time at school and focus on what actions we can take from birth right through to when they leave education at 18 and beyond, to contribute to the Council's ambition for giving people in Derby 'an inspiring work life'.

