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Leaving Care Team

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 the Education, Employment and Training (EET) outcomes for Care Leavers 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 the Apprenticeship scheme and work experience and progress made towards the re- launch of the offer.

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 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 the end of quarter 3 2021-22 (end-December 2021), the percentage of care leavers living in Derby in EET was 63.3%. In comparison:
 - In the previous quarter (quarter 2 2021-22, end of September 2021) the percentage was 59.4%

- One year ago (quarter 3 2020-21, end of December 2020) the percentage was 54.8%.

At the end of quarter 3 2021-22 (the end of December 2021), the percentage of care leavers living outside Derby in EET was 63.2%

In comparison:

- In the previous quarter (quarter 2 2021-22, the end of September 2021), the percentage was 62.7%
- One year ago (quarter 3 2020-21, end of December 2020), the percentage was 59.4%

It is noted that there has been a gradual improvement in our EET outcomes for Care Leavers which is encouraging and is displaying a positive direction of travel.

This data also compares favourably with regards to our comparator Local Authorities, East Midland Local Authorities and Nationally as can be seen below:

Data from statistical year 2020/21: (Doris report Library, Care Leavers benchmarking report 2020/21)

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.

17/18-year-old Care leavers

Derby 68.8%

Comparator Local Authorities average 64.1%

East Midlands Local Authorities average 65.5%

National average 65%

19-, 20- and 21-year-olds Care Leavers

Derby 57.3%

Comparator Local Authorities average 47.6%

East Midlands Local Authorities average 54.7%

National average 52.0%

- 4.2 The following section of the report will outline the early impact of the changes to service delivery that we have undertaken to effect long term sustainable improvement with regards to our EET outcomes for Care Leavers.

Background and Context

- 4.3 The Care Leavers EET Development Board was initiated in September 2020 and has met bimonthly since that date to explore and establish a joined-up approach to supporting Care Leavers across the sector and ensures that we are able to offer support and help to Care Leavers both pre and post 18 through working in partnership with both the Connexions Service and Derby Adult Learning services and all other EET providers.
- 4.4 The EET Development Board have established a single referral which is triaged via Derby Adult Learning Service (DALs). This is now live, and referrals are being made directly by Personal Advisers from the Leaving Care Service with the Leaving Care Team Manager meeting monthly with DAL's to monitor progress, continue to chase up referrals and monitor outcomes. Care Leavers 18 and under are referred on to Connexions which ensures that all Care Leavers are offered support accordingly.
- 4.5 The board's aims are to address those NEET Care Leavers within the City, some of whom have been NEET for some time and who have multiple challenges and barriers to overcome. In order to share information across the partnership to offer support Care Leavers also need to be supported to engage in the process and provide consent to have information about them shared with partner agencies.

Development Board update

- 4.6 The data would indicate that the creation of the Development Board has contributed to the overall improvement of EET outcomes for Derby City Care Leavers over the past year, despite the challenges that Covid 19 continues to present. A more detailed breakdown of impact will be gathered over the next 6 months which we expect will identify exactly how this has supported individuals to progress from NEET to EET and will build upon what has worked going forwards. The Board has enabled a more joined up approach in terms of how we are able to support Care Leavers into EET in Derby.

Monitoring and tracking progress

- 4.7 A Monitoring and tracking process has been addressed within the Council with the use of the Liquid Logic (LCS) recording system.

Meetings have taken place with the council's IT services Department to create a form on LCS which will capture referrals and outcomes accordingly and will be going live in the first quarter of 2022-23. Once live this will enable us to create reports on referrals, progress and outcomes which can be taken back to the board for discussion and any further action or developments that are required.

We will also still be capturing the views of Care Leavers who have been supported through the process and use their experiences to inform future developments as data alone is only part of the picture. The views and experiences of Care Leavers will be presented within a future report to the Corporate Parenting Committee.

DCC apprenticeship scheme.

- 4.8 Meetings have taken place outside of the EET Board with the Apprenticeship scheme manager and others to re-launch the apprenticeship scheme which also includes work experience opportunities for Care Leavers. The workbook that was used to accompany and support this scheme is currently being updated with a view to relaunching in May /June of 2022. The referral process will be incorporated/ harmonised with the NEET referral form (for the EET Board) and DALs are looking at how this can be achieved.
- 4.9 The scheme will enable Care Leavers to access Apprenticeships and Work Experience within the Council and will also explore how this can be further expanded to include Care Leavers at a younger age as they exit school, and the Virtual School Head has been engaged in the re launch discussions accordingly.
- 4.10 Many EET opportunities continue to be received at the Leaving Care Service from a variety of sources, and these opportunities are distributed across the Board members, Including Connexions and DALs to ensure they reach as many Care Leavers as possible with the aim of ensuring that opportunities are presented to Care Leavers at the earliest opportunity and to enable Connexions and DALs to consider them when supporting young people.

Some of these activities/ programmes take place in neighbouring authorities so we are able to reach out to our NEET Care Leavers who currently live outside of the City.

- 4.11 Currently there are 8 Care Leavers aged over 19 who are currently NEET but are actively working with DAL's to progress into EET.

Currently there are 7 Care Leavers who have been referred and are now in some form of EET. We will explore further with the Care Leavers individually and professionals to understand and unpack what made the difference in these cases and identify any learning.

There are a further 37 Care Leavers who have, as yet, have not provided consent to allow us to share information on them that would allow access of the EET Board opportunities and support or who have declined offers of support. All professionals currently involved with these young people are continuing to discuss options with these young people, address any barriers

and will be continuing to explore ways by which they can motivate them to participate in the process.

This information will be discussed at future board meetings so that collectively we are able to discuss a range of methods by which we can encourage Care Leavers to participate in their EET journey.

4.12 Additionally, the board has a member from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) who is a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the Leaving Care Service and who provides additional information and advice with regards to DWP activities, initiatives and programmes that support Care Leavers into EET.

4.15 All meetings of the Board have to date been virtual since its inception and there is a desire by the Board to meet up face to face as soon as restrictions are eased, and it is safe to do so.

Our EET outcomes have improved, and we are now in a good position to explore in more detail and with greater in-depth analysis over the coming months with regards to identifying what works and further develop the offer to Care Leavers in Derby City.

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

Climate implications

9.1 None

Other significant implications

10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Service, Legal	7.2.22
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance Peoples Services	8.2.22
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help & Children's Social Care	27.1.21
Report sponsor	Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services	
Other(s)		

Background papers:

List of appendices: