

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Children in Care and Care Leavers – Partnership with the University of Derby

RECOMMENDATION

1. Commission is asked to receive information about the progress and outcomes of the Derby City Education of Children in Care Team's developing partnership with the University of Derby.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Since November 2008 a partnership has developed between Derby City Education of Children in Care Team and the University of Derby Social Care Department and the Student Employment Agency. As a result of initial meetings between the LA and Derby University a number of issues were identified for attention.

- 2.2 **Lack of information**

Young people in care are often some of the most excluded young people and can often rule themselves out of attending any Further Education (FE) or Higher Education (HE) due to a lack of information relating to courses available for example Access, and Foundation degrees.

The University recognises that working through traditional routes via schools does not necessarily reach these young people.

In order to encourage Children in Care to consider Further or Higher Education a more direct approach was considered to be necessary:

- o using the University facilities for a variety of activities involving Children in Care e.g. meetings, Give It A Go Day, Tutoring
- o tailoring marketing materials for young people in care
- o writing an article about Access programmes and Higher Education in the Children in Care newsletter, 'Focus On Us'.

These have all been implemented to equip and support Young People in Care and Care Leavers for a smoother transition into Higher Education.

2.3 To improve the transition process to Further and Higher Education

Some young people in care have enrolled at the University and their experience has been positive. For some young people in care, however, this process remains daunting.

To encourage them to consider Further or Higher Education the following approaches were considered:

- A named person at the University as first point of contact for young people.
- An invitation to young people and their carers to tour the University
- Leaving Care staff to attend relevant events at the University
- Provision of more information about the “care” experience to tutors on the Access programmes.

These have all been implemented to equip and support Young People in Care and Care Leavers experience smoother transition into Higher Education.

2.4 Young People in Care Trainers and Interview Panellists Accreditation

The need to involve young people and their carers in programmes focusing particularly on Social Care, Social Work and Health programmes is increasingly becoming a mandatory requirement of Governing bodies such as the General Social Care Council (GSCC). The practice of involving young people in Care within programmes, such as Social Work and Social Care, has been in existence for a number of years at the University of Derby.

The young people that work with the University as Trainers and interview panellists are often very competent in the work they do. However, many of them have had their own education disrupted and may have left school with no formal qualifications. One of the areas that is being explored to provide a qualification, in recognition of the work with the University, is through using the Open College Network (OCN) to accredit the young people’s work. The University has agreed to fund places for 10 young people.

2.5 University Student Tutor and Mentoring Initiative

Research and trials through the ‘Making Good Progress’ Maths and English pilot in Key Stages 2 and 3 have shown that Children in Care make even better progress than their peers as a result of one-to-one tuition.

Derby City are committed to supporting individual Children in Care by providing additional 1:1 tuition to support their learning, which helps them to catch up when their education has been disrupted or delayed.

Consequently a partnership with the University of Derby Student Employment Agency has provided eight enthusiastic, committed and appropriate Students to be placed on the Tutor list and become employed as Student Tutors. This initiative is proving to be very successful and extends the service already operating using qualified Teachers. Funding for this initiative is through the £500 Children in Care Personal Education Allowance (PEA) and is initiated and reviewed via the six monthly meetings to review the young person’s Personal Education Plan (PEP).

In summary, the partnership between the Derby City Education for Children in Care Team and the University of Derby is mutually beneficial and has supported effective initiatives Children in Care and Care Leavers to improve their life outcomes.

For more information contact:	Keith Woodthorpe Assistant Director, Children and Young Peoples Department
Background papers:	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Continuation of the £500 per annum PEA for children in care after April 2011.

Legal

2. None arising.

Personnel

3. None arising.

Equalities impact

4. The scheme helps to promote the needs of one of our most vulnerable groups of young people.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. Supporting Everyone in Learning and Achieving.