

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 note the planned developments and changes to service delivery that will shape our approach to supporting Care Leavers going forwards.
- 1.2 This report will provide information and an update with regards to the creation of the themed Care Leavers Development Board, work on which has commenced with an EET themed board, which has formed the basis of a broader offer for Care Leavers in the city.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To ensure senior managers and Corporate Parenting Committee members are aware of the ongoing performance of the Leaving Care service with regards to EET outcomes and to note the planned service developments designed to improve performance and improve outcomes for Derby City Care Leavers.

3 Reasons

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

Supporting information

- 4.1 The current performance data for Care Leavers who are EET as of March 2021 is 59.6%. This figure has remained relatively constant over the past 12 months despite the impact that Covid 19 could have had. This is on par with our statistical neighbours and nationally. However, we are fully aware as a service and LA that for Derby City Care Leavers we want to further improve on this.

It should be noted that currently we are supporting 15 Care Leavers at University which is the average for Care Leavers nationally at just over 6% of the cohort.

- 4.2 The following sections of this report will outline the changes to service delivery that we are currently undertaking to effect long term sustainable improvement with regards to our EET outcomes for Care Leavers.
- 4.3 The Care Leavers Development Board was formally known as the Leaving Care Improvement Board.
- 4.4 The Improvement Board was developed by the previous Deputy Head of Service and current Team Manager and was a multi-agency meeting with the emphasis on developing the offer (for Care leavers) from partner agencies and strengthening the Corporate Parenting role of the Council for Care Leavers.
- 4.5 When the current Deputy Head of Service was appointed, the Team Manager and Deputy Head of Service reviewed the Terms of Reference for The Leaving Care Improvement Board and what the board had achieved to date. This led to a discussion being held with partner agencies about changing the format and updating the terms of reference for the meetings and a potential change of name to attempt to establish a reinvigorated approach to developing the offer to Care Leavers.
- 4.6 The Team Manager and Deputy Head of Service felt strongly that the focus on the meeting should not solely be information sharing but was intended to be a dynamic working group that has a clear plan of action to improve the life chances and opportunities for Care Leavers.
- 4.7 It was agreed that the board would become the Care Leavers Development Board and that rather than have all partner agencies attend all meetings, there would be a targeted approach for each area of the Pathway Plan (the plan staff in the service use to guide their support for Care Leavers) with relevant agencies in attendance. The priorities for the board would be to develop the offer and support partner agencies and service providers to deliver relevant services to Care Leavers that would enhance their opportunities and outcomes.
- 4.8 There was an intention to launch the newly developed Care Leavers Development Board in the spring of 2020. However, the COVID 19 pandemic interrupted the plan due to changes to working practices and priorities.
- 4.9 However as soon as we were able to, we initiated the first of these development groups and the themed group was centred around EET. All relevant agencies and services that could offer help and support to Care Leavers were invited, and the initial meeting took place Virtually on September 22nd, 2020. In attendance were representatives from Connexions, Derby Adult Learning, DWP, Derby Employment Hub, Derby College, Framework and DCC apprenticeship service. A subsequent meeting took place on November 3rd 2020 which also attracted the

University of Derby and the Princes Trust as members and we know that there are more services that exist especially in the Voluntary sector that will be approached to join and develop a comprehensive offer to Care Leavers. A third meeting took place on the 26th January 2021. New members to the Board were the YMCA and Building Better Opportunities representatives. A further meeting of the board has been booked for the 16th March 2021 with the aim of starting this new service delivery model by April 1st, 2021.

- 4.10 The Board has developed a Terms of Reference for the group and established that it would be beneficial to establish what the current EET landscape looks like and is available to Care Leavers in Derby City. A Matrix is being developed which will be held centrally and updated by the Board and contains all potential routes that Care Leavers could take currently and where they can be supported with their journey into EET.
- 4.11 The board agreed that initially we will concentrate on the current NEET cohort of Care Leavers of which there are approximately 100 at any given time. It was felt that we should provide a NEET offer. The Board has agreed a common referral form for all Care Leavers which will be triaged centrally by one agency and then referred to the right service that will enable Care Leavers to access the right level of support for their specific needs and circumstances and level of ability to engage at that time. This process will also enable Care Leavers to be referred on through the partner agencies to more relevant services as they progress on their journey to EET. The services on offer include confidence and self-esteem building; services to reduce risk taking behaviour which may be impacting on a Care Leavers ability to engage with EET; resilience and emotional well-being and more employment and training based services such as traineeships, apprenticeships, support to write CV's and also accessing college or other training facilities and courses.

As the majority of Care leavers will be post 18 and therefore adults, the referral process will need to be completed with them and their consent obtained accordingly.

- 4.12 The board also intends to develop a robust monitoring and tracking process so that we can monitor the progress of Care Leavers as they engage with the process. This will also enable us to establish what the impact has been because of the change of service delivery and to enable us to see the impact of a clearer and more collegiate offer. We aim to incorporate a clear process whereby Care Leavers can feed back and inform us of their experiences, what worked well and what might need to change so that those Care leavers can directly influence the service delivery going forwards not only the LA but also to partners via the development Board.
- 4.13 It should be noted that not all Derby City Care Leavers reside in Derby City and therefore not all will be able to access this support. In these instances, Personal Advisers will endeavour to enable these young people to access EET support where they live and will liaise with relevant support services

locally to ensure that we are doing what we can to move all of our Care Leavers into EET.

- 4.14 Those Care Leavers who are currently EET will continue to be supported by their PA's along with our partner agencies to fulfil their aspirations and continue with their own EET journeys. Should they become NEET at any point then they will be referred through to the NEET offer as soon as possible so that we are able to support them back into EET as soon as possible.

5. Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Partner agencies were consulted on the EET themed Development Board for Care Leavers via Board meetings and have agreed to sign up to the terms of Reference for these.

6. Other options

- 6.1 Do nothing, which would mean a looser set of arrangements across the city for accessing EET for Care Leavers at a time where unemployment for young people generally is increasing due to the impact of the pandemic. This option is at no cost and has been agreed by partners.

7. Financial and value for money issues

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

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 No Implications.

9. Climate implications

- 9.1 None

10. Other significant implications

- 10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	NA	NA
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Children's Safeguarding	00/03/2021
Other(s)		

Background papers:
List of appendices: