

CHARTER FOR CARE LEAVERS

1. CHARTER

- 1.1 The Department for Education (DfE) in association with care leavers, charities and local authorities launched a council charter for care leavers. The charter is based on six principles of support: identity and aspiration, listening to care leavers views, support when needed, information, finding care leavers a home and working together. The Charter was created by care leavers over a two-year period and was officially launched by Children's Minister Edward Timpson to mark National cares week (24th – 30th October 2012).
- 1.2 Scott King, a care leaver who was part of the team that consulted young people and professionals on the charter, has stated "the key purpose for the charter is to try and eliminate the stereo-types behind care leavers". He stated that aspirations for care leavers are so low, but that expectations are high. That the charter is about the hearts and minds of the care leavers themselves and thinking about them as individuals, so they are treated with dignity.
- 1.3 The Children's Minister has written to councils urging them to sign up to the Charter and to discuss with Children in Care Councils what needs to be done to help embed its principles in day to day practice.
- 1.4 It is perhaps important to note that what is pledged is already covered in legislation and should therefore be standard practice.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PLEDGE

- 2.1 Nationally 19% of young people left care at the age of 16 and 18% at 17. In 2011, 36% of care leavers were not in training, education or employment (NCAS 2012). Evidence from research, practice and young people identify the following messages:
 - myths, stereotypes and stigma
 - diversity of needs and experiences, not a homogenous group
 - many are vulnerable to not achieving potential
 - collectively over-represented in disadvantaged groups.
 - transitions are accelerated, compressed and not sequential
 - stability, consistency and quality relationships promote resilience
 - good quality support does improve life chances and outcomes
 - young people need to be at the centre of decision making

2.2 What concerns young people about leaving care?

- Being on own
- Not being able to cope
- Not being to get help when you need it
- Not having enough money to live on
- Cleaning up after yourself
- Leaving care before you're ready
- Having nowhere to go/come back to
- Being put in a dodgy place
- Having nowhere to live
- Not being settled anywhere and having to keep moving around

Children's Right Director 2010 www.rights4me.org

2 WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO EMBED THE CHARTER PRINCIPLES IN DAY TO DAY PRACTICE WITHIN DERBY CITY COUNCIL

3.1 To respect and honor your identify

- Personal advisors in the leaving care service are diverse in terms of culture and ethnicity and to a degree reflect the culture and diversity of the young people they support.
- In day to day practice needs arising from identity, sexual orientation, personal beliefs, heritage and ethnicity are generally identified and met sensitively. A person centred approach is adopted.
- Allowances are given to celebrate significant religious and cultural events. The service also periodically will have an event to celebrate diversity. For example, the care leavers celebration party in 2010 had a cultural theme and care leavers who attended prepared their own traditional dishes to share with other young people.
- Most Personal advisors within the team are also skilled and experienced in helping young people understand their identity stemming from being a child in care and a care leaver. For example, it is established practice to support young people when they wish to access departmental records and help them make sense of their history. Personal advisors also support young people when they wish to locate family members, for example through the Salvation Army.
- Support and allowances are also provided to promote and maintain significant relationships. For example, costs associated with travel to see significant others.
- Improvements in the consistency in quality of the social work assessments and

pathway plans that commence when a young person reaches 16 would ensure that when a young person leaves care the leaving care personal advisors have a

clear understanding of the young person's needs relating to identity. The assessment framework includes eco maps to be used with a young person to identify their support network and family and social relationships. The assessments need to be clearer in how those relationships will contribute to the young person making a successful transition and how they will assist with integration into the community

3.2 To believe in you

- The leaving care service has high aspirations for care leavers. Both staff and young people to celebrate achievements use good news boards. Enabling approaches are adopted so personal advisors help young people complete tasks not do for them and promote resilience. Achievements are marked by events. So for example personal advisors will take young people for meals to celebrate the passing of a course or/and incentives chosen by the young person will be given such as new clothes. Gifts and talents are also recognized and promoted. Hence, a range of activities are currently set up / funded by personal advisors such as dancing lessons, football subs, and gym memberships. The financial support available is detailed in the financial procedures for care leavers and in the new draft pathway plan.

3.3 To listen to you

- The proposed new pathway plan ensures that young people's views are included in every section and any differences in views between the personal advisor and young person is made clear. The pathway plan also asks for comments about the service they are receiving including suggestions for improving it. However, it is appreciated that there may be barriers to complaints if the person who is helping you complete the plan is your personal advisor who you rely on for support. Therefore, the managers of the service will in addition interview young people to seek feedback about the quality of the service provided.
- CSV provides an independent advocacy service for care leavers
- Information regarding complaints and appeals does need to be better published and information about access added to the pathway plan.

3.4 To inform you

- This significant area needs to be developed. Leaflets about legal entitlement are now out of date. Information is available on Derbynet but in consultation with young people a care leavers pack needs to be put together to ensure that young people are aware of the council extended duties to them as detailed in the transition regulations.

- A pack also needs to be put together of services and useful numbers that are likely to be required by young people once they are no longer in touch with the leaving care service.
- Personal advisers do currently support young people to access their records however; a process is not in place to record any disagreement with factual content.

3.5 To support you

- What is being pledged here is already well established as an expectation of practitioners within the leaving care service and in the model of service delivery, which is an open door approach, which aims to be friendly, available and responsive to needs as they arise. Hence young people can drop in for informal contact not just to access specific advice and support. The difficulty is the capacity of the service to meet the day to day needs of young people who may be seeking contact because they are isolated and lonely whilst working in a planned way with other young people. Hence a team approach is promoted so most young people know and are supported by all the team and will be comfortable seeing whoever is on duty if their own personal advisor is not available.
- The service is co-located with several other services for young people (drug and alcohol services, careers advisors, SPACE) which care leavers find easier to access via their use of the drop in. Personal advisors are also able to gain easier access to these services on behalf of young people.
- Care leavers who no longer are legally entitled to a service return to see the team long after the service has officially ended. They are always made welcome and any advice offered is provided. The difficulty is capacity and ensuring that those who are entitled to a service are prioritized as inevitably staff that have supported these older young people for many years will have close relationships. Hence, the need to use specific drop in time for this purpose.

3.6 To find you a home

- The care leavers housing pathway and housing protocols has ensured that the majority of care leavers who reside in the city are able to access suitable accommodation. This is usually their own tenancy with tenancy/floating support or supported accommodation. Young people have been able to either move directly into a tenancy or supported accommodation if not ready to manage a tenancy at the point of leaving care. They have also been able to move from a tenancy into supported accommodation if they have had difficulties managing.
- However, significant cuts to supporting people will mean that there will be much less supported housing available.

- Derby City Council does not have a Staying Put or supported lodgings scheme available to care leavers so they cannot remain in their foster placement beyond 18 aside from if they are in the middle of their A levels or a course. In these circumstances, the placement is extended until the particular course is completed. This does not apply to independent foster placements.

3.7 To be a lifelong Champion

- The leaving care services and established partnership working with a wide range of services to meet the needs of young people including housing and supported housing providers, benefits agency, Derby college and Derby University mainstream and specialist health services, CVS

4 CARE LEAVERS GRANT

- 4.1 The Children's Minister has noted that in 2011 the Care leavers Foundation estimated that it would cost at least £3000 to enable care leavers to meet the cost of transition, but that the majority of local authorities were paying less than £2,000, and some less than £1,000. Derby Leaving care services provide care leavers with the minimum of £2,000, a starter pack to the value of £50, TV license and pay for or directly provide the removals and delivery of belongings. If goods for setting up home are ordered directly, by the council young people also gain the 20% VAT given the council is exempt from VAT charges.
- 4.2 Wherever possible personal advisors try not to spend all of the young persons grant when they first move into a tenancy as if they do fail the tenancy they often lose their furniture as well.

PATHWAY PLAN

Personal Details

Your Name:			
D.O.B.			
Your current address:			
Telephone Number:	Home:	Mobile:	
SWIFT ID Number:			
National Insurance Number:			
Legal Status:			
Date of this Plan:			
Social Worker:			
Personal Adviser:			
Telephone Number:			
Base:			
Service Manager:		Telephone:	

This Plan sets out the support arrangements for you over the 6 months and identifies the help we will give you to achieve gradual independence from the Local Authority.

The Pathway Plan will be reviewed by your care worker every 6 months and will be presented at your Statutory Review.

Once you have left care it will be reviewed with your worker from the Leaving Care Service.

If you are not satisfied with the service offered, you can make representation to the Service Manager of the team working with you.

You should always sign and have your own copy of your Pathway Plan.

1. Details of Placements, Accommodation or Housing Needs

Current Situation or Circumstances since last Pathway Plan Review:

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What are the main accommodation tasks that need to be dealt with over the next 6 months?

Actions – what is needed to achieve the aim?	Who will do it?	By When?	Outcomes hoped for.	Date Task completed.

Contingency Plan:

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Views & Comments of Young Person:

Views & Comments of Personal Advisor:

Overall view by young person of accommodation (comments) 1 (good) – 5 (unhappy) 1 2 3 4 5

2. Education, Work and Training

Current Situation or Circumstances since last Pathway Plan Review:

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Are you registered with Connexions? If yes, what is their name and where are they based?

Name of Connexions PA	Address

College / Employment

Name of College / Employer	Course or Job Title	Address

What would you like to achieve in the next 6 months?

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Looking further ahead, what would you like to be doing in 2 years?

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What are the main education, training or employment tasks to be done over the next 6 months?

Actions – what is needed to achieve the aim?	Who will do it?	By when?	Outcomes hoped for.	Date Task Completed

Contingency Plan

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Views & Comments of young person:

Views & Comments of Personal Advisor:

Overall view by young person of education, training and employment (comments) 1 (good) – 5 (unhappy) 1 2 3 4 5

3. Health, Development and Emotional Wellbeing

Aims: What are your health plans? What do you need to do to stay healthy?

How's your emotional health? Have you ever self-harmed?

Names and addresses of:

Doctor

Name	Telephone No	Address

Dentist

Name	Telephone No	Address

Any other health professionals

Name	Telephone No	Address

Have you had an eye test in the last 12 months? Yes/No

Have you had a health assessment in the last 12 months? Yes/No

Do you feel you need any help or advice with any of the following: (Please tick)

Making and attending appointments ()

Health and Nutrition ()

Drugs and Alcohol ()

Sexual Health ()

What are the main issues that need to be addressed over the next 6 months relating to health?

Actions – what is needed to achieve the aim?	Who will do it?	By When?	Outcomes hoped for	Date Task completed
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Contingency Plan

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Views & Comments of young person:

Views & Comments of Personal Advisor:

Overall view by young person of health, development and emotional wellbeing (comments) 1 (good) – 5 (unhappy) 1 2 3 4 5

4. Family and Social Relationships

Current Situation or Circumstances since last Pathway Plan Review:

Parenting Capacity, How do you feel you are as a parent? What do you feel are your strengths and weaknesses? Do you feel you need any help?

Who will be your main day to day support over the next 6 months? e.g. foster carer, key worker, after care worker.

Are appropriate arrangements in place to help you maintain contact with your family and how often do you see them?

Do you need any more help with this?

What leisure activities do you take part in and do you need any support with them? Did you know that the leaving care team have a budget to help you with costs of leisure activities?

What is the agreed level of contact with personal advisor? Current legal minimum is two monthly visits in the home. Please detail contact arrangements.

What are the main issues that need to be considered over the next 6 months?

Actions – what is needed to achieve the aim?	Who will do it?	By when?	Outcomes hoped for	Date Task completed

Who would you contact in an emergency?

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Views & Comments of young person:

Views & Comments of personal Advisor:

Overall view by young person of family and social relationships (comments)
1 (good) – 5 (unhappy) 1 2 3 4 5

5. Identity & Culture (any issues that affect the young person's sense of self)

Aims: Do you have any questions about your past? Are you comfortable with who you are? What could help?

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Actions – What is needed to achieve the aim?	Who will do it?	From whom?	By when?	Outcomes hoped for

What language does the young person use as their primary means of communication?

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Can the young person speak any other languages?

.....

Does the young person relate well to his / her ethnic and cultural background?

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.....

Is the young person aware of their religious heritage, for example observance of festivals and holidays?

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.....

How does the young person describe their own identity?

.....

Views &Comments of young person:

Views & Comments of Personal Advisor:

Overall view by young person of identity (comments) 1 (good) – 5 (unhappy)
1 2 3 4 5

6. Life Skills (Practical and other skills needed to live independently)

Becoming a confident young adult, (for example looking after your self-making and keeping appointments).

Managing Money (for example managing your own finances, making the money last, paying bills, coping with debts, dealing with banks).

Everyday tasks (for example shopping, preparing meals, eating a balanced diet, getting around, coping with laundry, learning basic household maintenance)

Current Situation or Circumstances since last Pathway Plan Review:

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Tasks for the next 6 months

Actions – What is needed to achieve the aim?	Who will do it?	By when?	Outcomes hoped for	Date Task completed

Views & Comments of young person:

Views & comments of personal Advisor:

Overall view by young person of life skills (comments) 1 (good) – 5 (unhappy)
1 2 3 4 5

7. Financial Support Plan

Current Situation or Circumstances since last Pathway Plan Review:

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If you are still living in a foster or children's home, you will continue to receive your pocket money and clothing money from your carer.

Do you have a bank account?

Yes/No

Do you save money regularly?

Yes/No

If not, this is something you should think about while you are still looked after.

Accommodation Costs

If you are living in the community under the age of 18 or in higher education over 18 you will receive support for your accommodation costs.

Weekly Amount Required	
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Maintenance

Weekly amount you will be paid	
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This is made up of the following amounts:

Clothing Money	
Food/Cleaning Materials/Toiletries	
College Expenses e.g. Equipment	

Your utility bills may be paid for you direct, especially if you are in supported accommodation. If you have card meters then you will receive £00.00 per week.

How will you receive your money?

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Budget Plan for Independent Living

My weekly income and costs are:

Income	£	Costs	£
Maintenance (under 18s)		Rent	
Benefits (over 18s)		Council tax	
Wages		Electricity	
Housing benefit		Gas	
DLA		Food	
16 – 24 bursary		Water	
Other		Tv license	
		Phone	
		Transport	
		Other	
Total		Total	
My money left over is:			

Views & Comments of young person:

Views & Comments of Personal Advisor:

Overall view by young person of finances (comments) 1 (good) – 5 (unhappy)

1 2 3 4 5

8. Offending

Recent / Current Offences

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Court dates

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Sentences

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9. Your thoughts

Derby city council tries very hard to meet your needs. Sometimes we are not able to do this for various reasons. If you'd like to make a comment about the service, both positive and negative, the management team is very happy to hear from you. Please use this space to write down what you think of the service and we will use your feedback to try and improve it. Thanks!

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GET INVOLVED! Are you interested in being involved in any of the following? (We will provide training for you when necessary.)		
Youth Forum	Yes / No	Maybe
Interviewing New Staff	Yes / No	Maybe
Training Staff	Yes / No	Maybe
Social events / trips	Yes / No	Maybe
Production of newsletter and web site	Yes / No	Maybe
Development of service leaflet	Yes / No	Maybe
One off groups e.g. attending conferences, visits, development meetings	Yes / No	Maybe

Signed

Young Person:**Date**.....

Social Care/Leaving Care Worker:**Date**.....

Service Manager:**Date**.....

Derby City Leaving Care Service

15+ Assessment/Referral to Leaving Care Service

Section 1 – Basic Information

1.1 Basic Information			
Young Person		ICS Ref	
Date of Birth		Age	
Gender		Ethnic Origin	
Social Worker		1 st Language	
Area Base			
Telephone		Email	
Date of 15+ assessment			

1.2 Legal Status			
Current LAC Status e.g. Sec 20 / Sec 31			
LAC for 13 weeks +	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Leaving Care Status e.g. ELI / REL			
Host Case?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Responsible Authority
Is Young Person Seeking Asylum?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asylum Status

Section 2 – Current Placement Details

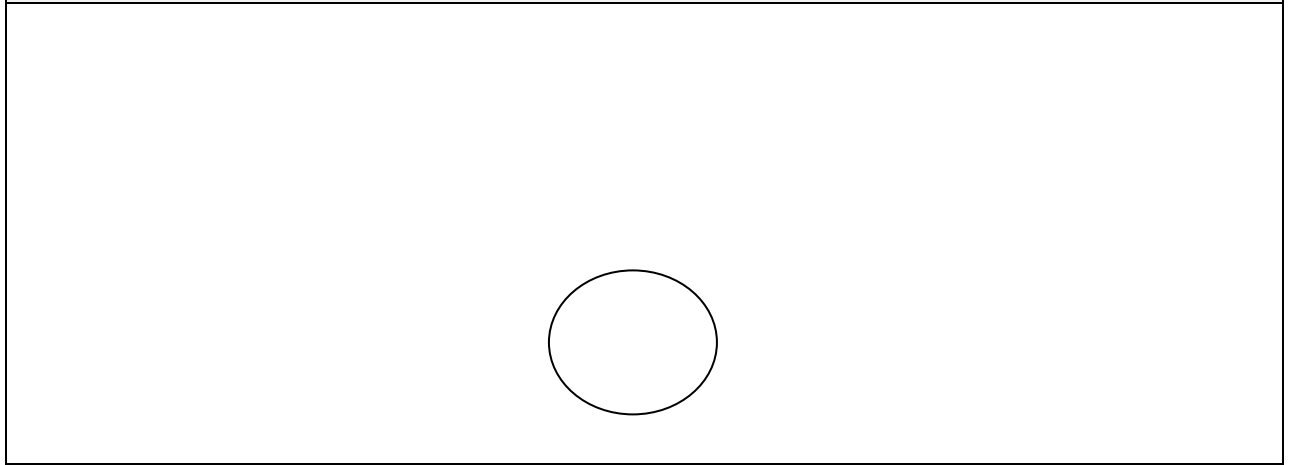
2.1 Current Placement Type
Placement Type – Tick as Appropriate

Section 4 – Relationships and Networks

4.1 Family Tree/Genogram

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4.2 Pen Picture of Family Relationships
4.3 Ecomap
Please include all people who provide support to the young person, friends, family, relatives, mentor etc. – focus on non-professionals where appropriate


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4.4 Pen Picture of Support Network

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4.5 Other Key Professionals

Please list others not previously mentioned who are part of the young person's network i.e. Teachers, Youth Workers etc.

Name	
Agency / Role	
Nature of Support	
Contact	
Name	
Agency / Role	
Nature of Support	
Contact	

Section 5 – Health Information

5.1 Health Details	
Name of GP	
Address	
Telephone	
Dentist	
Address	
Telephone	

5.2 Additional Health Information	
Details of any additional health care professionals involved	
Name	----
Role	----
Address	----
Telephone	----
Details of Support Needs In the Terms of Managing Health Issues	

Please Give Details Of Any Childhood Illnesses	
5.3 Immunisation History	
Immunisation	Date Given

5.4 Disability Information					
Young Person has Disability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
Please give details					

Transition Plan in Place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
Relevant Benefits Claimed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	EMA
Details of additional social care professionals involved					
Name					
Agency/Role					
Address					
Telephone					

Section 6 – Education, Employment, Training

6.1 Education/Training Provision	
Address	
Name of Key Contact	
Telephone	

6.2 Current Course Information	
Subject/Type/Level of Course	End Date
6.3 Future Education / Employment / Training Plans	
Give details of young person's future plans, including career preferences, ambitions and aspirations.	

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Please Give Details Of Any Relevant Family Medical History
Is The Young Person Pregnant? Please Give Details

6.4 Connexions Information	
Name of PA	
Address	
Telephone	

Section 7 – Offending Behaviour

7.1 Criminal Orders			
Is the Young Person currently the subject of a Criminal Order?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Type of Order			
Duration		End Date	
Details			
Is the Young Person On The Sex Offenders Register?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

7.2 Youth Offending Worker Details			
Name of YOS Worker			
Address			
Telephone		Email	

7.3 Offending History			
Offence	Date	Details	Spent?
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Section 8 – Key Documentation

8.1 Key Documentation Checklist		
Document Type	Obtained	Location
Birth Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
NI Number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Passport	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Bank Account	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
NHS Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Immigration/Asylum Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Other – specify	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Section 9 – Future Accommodation

9.1 Future Accommodation Plans					
This assessment must be based on best current information, young person's stated preference, realistic post-18 placement options etc.					
Is it envisaged that the young person will remain in the current placement until they leave care?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is a further LAC placement being sought?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes please give details					
Envisaged Duration of Current / Final LAC Placement – Tick as appropriate					
16+	<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	18+	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 18+, have arrangements been discussed with current carers?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Envisaged Location of Accommodation on Leaving Care – Please indicate options and preferences					
9.2 Accommodation Type					
Type of accommodation envisaged on leaving care – tick as appropriate					
Community Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lodgings with ex carers	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Council Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lone Parent Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Foyer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Rented	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hostel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supported Lodgings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	University/College Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Live with Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other -	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult Family Placement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Care	<input type="checkbox"/>

9.3 Support							
Level of support envisaged on leaving care – tick as appropriate							
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	High	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of support							
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	On-site Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floating Support	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 10 – Preparation for Adulthood

10.1 Preparation for Adulthood Pen Picture
Please give a brief overview of the young person's knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to managing money, maintaining personal health, nutrition and healthy eating, food preparation, self care, personal hygiene, decision-making, maintaining relationships, engaging in leisure activities. Please add any additional relevant information.

10.2 Financial Issues	
Are there any Financial Issues which may effect the young person's Financial Entitlements (i.e. Inheritance, Compensation Award, Trust Fund etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please give details	

10.3 Preparation for Adulthood Action Plan			
Please identify key action points to develop young person's independent living skills			
	Action	By Who	By When
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Section 11 – Risk Assessment

11.1 Presenting Risks	
Are there any risks present related to the child?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Tick all those that apply			
Self-Harm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absconding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aggression	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drug Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance Misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Offending	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
If Other Please Give Details	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

11.2 Details of Risks Presented to the Young Person From Others
<div></div>

11.3 Details of any Risks Presented to the Young Person by Their Own Behaviour
<div></div>

11.4 Details of Risks Presented By the Young Person to Others (Including Social Care Staff)
<div></div>

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11.5 How Are These Risks Managed? Please Give Details

11.5 Has a Assessment Form Been Completed?			<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Date Completed		Copy Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Section 12 – Additional Information

12.1 Additional Information

Please add any additional information that you feel is important to consider in this assessment.

Section 13 – Assessment Allocation

13.1 Allocation

Allocated to:

Area Base			
Telephone		Email	
Allocated by:			
Date Assessment Allocated			
Date Assessment Completed			
Time-scale met (12 weeks?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

13.2 Assessment Process			
Key Documents	Obtained		Comment
Core Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Current Care Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Chronology	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Minutes of Last Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Action & Assessment Records	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Personal Education Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Transition Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
SSENS	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

13.3 Key Meetings		Date of Meeting		
	Name	1	2	3
Young person				
Area Social Worker				
Primary Carer				
Keyworker				
Key Kin				
Key Kin				
Other				
Other				

13.4 Assessment Sufficient to Establish Needs of Young People Receiving the Leaving Care Service?	
Social Care Worker's Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Manager's Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



Department
for Education



Charter for Care Leavers

A Charter is a set of principles and promises. This Charter sets out promises care leavers want the central and local government to make. Promises and principles help in decision making and do not replace laws; they give guidance to show how laws are designed to be interpreted.

The key principles in this Charter will remain constant through any changes in Legislation, Regulation and Guidance. Care leavers urge local authorities to use these principles when they make decisions about young people's lives. The Charter for Care Leavers is designed to raise expectation, aspiration and understanding of what care leavers need and what the government and local authorities should do to be good Corporate Parents.

We Promise:

To respect and honour your identity

- We will support you to discover and to be who you are and honour your unique identity. We will help you develop your own personal beliefs and values and accept your culture and heritage. We will celebrate your identity as an individual, as a member of identity groups and as a valued member of your community. We will value and support important relationships, and help you manage changing relationships or come to terms with loss, trauma or other significant life events. We will support you to express your identity positively to others.

To believe in you

- We will value your strengths, gifts and talents and encourage your aspirations. We will hold a belief in your potential and a vision for your future even if you have lost sight of these yourself. We will help you push aside limiting barriers and encourage and support you to pursue your goals in whatever ways we can. We will believe in you, celebrate you and affirm you.

To listen to you

- We will take time to listen to you, respect, and strive to understand your point of view. We will place your needs, thoughts and feelings at the heart of all decisions about you, negotiate with you, and show how we have taken these into account. If we don't agree with you we will fully explain why. We will provide easy access to complaint and appeals processes and promote and encourage access to independent advocacy whenever you need it.

To inform you

- We will give you information that you need at every point in your journey, from care to adulthood, presented in a way that you want including information on legal entitlements and the service you can expect to receive from us at different stages in the journey. We will keep information up to date and

accurate. We will ensure you know where to get current information once you are no longer in regular touch with leaving care services. We will make clear to you what information about yourself and your time in care you are entitled to see. We will support you to access this when you want it, to manage any feelings that you might have about the information, and to put on record any disagreement with factual content.

To support you

- We will provide any support set out in current Regulations and Guidance and will not unreasonably withhold advice when you are no longer legally entitled to this service. As well as information, advice, practical and financial help we will provide emotional support. We will make sure you do not have to fight for support you are entitled to and we will fight for you if other agencies let you down. We will not punish you if you change your mind about what you want to do. We will continue to care about you even when we are no longer caring for you. We will make it our responsibility to understand your needs. If we can't meet those needs we will try and help you find a service that can. We will help you learn from your mistakes; we will not judge you and we will be here for you no matter how many times you come back for support.

To find you a home

- We will work alongside you to prepare you for your move into independent living only when you are ready. We will help you think about the choices available and to find accommodation that is right for you. We will do everything we can to ensure you are happy and feel safe when you move to independent living. We recognise that at different times you may need to take a step back and start over again. We will do our best to support you until you are settled in your independent life; we will not judge you for your mistakes or refuse to advise you because you did not listen to us before. We will work proactively with other agencies to help you sustain your home.

To be a lifelong champion

- We will do our best to help you break down barriers encountered when dealing with other agencies. We will work together with the services you need, including housing, benefits, colleges and universities, employment providers and health services to help you establish yourself as an independent individual. We will treat you with courtesy and humanity whatever your age when you return to us for advice or support. We will help you to be the driver of your life and not the passenger. We will point you in a positive direction and journey alongside you at your pace. We will trust and respect you. We will not forget about you. We will remain your supporters in whatever way we can, even when our formal relationship with you has ended.