

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	UPDATE ON SERVICES FOR CARE LEAVERS IN SOUTHAMPTON		
DATE OF DECISION:	5 JANUARY 2017		
REPORT OF:	SERVICE LEAD – CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>The Panel will be aware that services for care leavers were an area of concern in the last Ofsted Inspection of Children’s Services in Southampton. Therefore, it is important to consider the service in terms of outcomes and progress to demonstrate that improvements are being made.</p> <p>Services for Care Leavers are provided by the ‘Pathways’ team. The team provides support to young people in our care from the age of 14 years. This enables workers to build relationships with young people at an early stage to ensure effective assessment and planning for the transition into adulthood. Care Leavers are allocated a personal advisor to support them into independence. It is likely that in the near future the Council will be expected to support young people up to the age of 25 where this is requested.</p> <p>The information below, and in the attached appendix, gives a clear update on progress to date in key areas of practice and outcomes.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Panel considers and challenges the information provided on services for care leavers in Southampton.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable a discussion with the Cabinet Member and officers on services and outcomes for care leavers in Southampton.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	The quarter 2 dataset provides a clear visual understanding of the improvement journey for our care leavers in the areas of suitable accommodation and keeping in touch. The graphs in Appendix 1 illustrate the positive improvement journey to date.		
4.	According to our most up to date information there are currently 133 care leavers in Southampton. The Pathways team is currently in touch with 100% of them.		

5.	All young people should have a Pathway Plan in place by the age of 16 years and 3 months which is regularly reviewed to support their journey into adulthood. In the November dataset 88% of our young people had a pathway plan in place. This is a significant improvement, partly due to a correction in data collation and also due to a strong drive for improvement in this area.																																																									
Education Training and Employment. (EET)																																																										
6.	Appendix 1 data demonstrates that 75 (56%) of our care leavers are in education training or employment. We have careers advisors placed with the team to support young people. This is an improving picture however we do want to improve further.																																																									
7.	<p>The breakdown of our young people in EET is demonstrated below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="335 694 1228 1086"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">EET Type</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Full Time Higher Education (BEYOND A LEVEL)</td> <td>4</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full Time EDUCATION NOT Higher Education</td> <td>23</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full Time TRAINING / EMPLOYMENT</td> <td>29</td> <td>22%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time EDUCATION NOT Higher Education</td> <td>9</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time TRAINING EMPLOYMENT</td> <td>10</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">NEET Type</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEET ILLNESS / DISABILITY</td> <td>16</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEET OTHER</td> <td>33</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEET PREGNANCY / PARENTING</td> <td>9</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	EET Type			Full Time Higher Education (BEYOND A LEVEL)	4	3%	Full Time EDUCATION NOT Higher Education	23	17%	Full Time TRAINING / EMPLOYMENT	29	22%	Part Time EDUCATION NOT Higher Education	9	7%	Part Time TRAINING EMPLOYMENT	10	8%	NEET Type			NEET ILLNESS / DISABILITY	16	12%	NEET OTHER	33	25%	NEET PREGNANCY / PARENTING	9	7%																											
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	Health
9.	The health service continues to undertake a range of activities such as working with BRS (Building Resilience and Strength) to screen for and assess emotional and behavioural difficulties in Looked After Children, they have developed a Care-Leavers Health Care Plan and a “Declined Service” pathway to ensure those young people who do not wish to engage with the service have access to health information and know how to re-engage when they wish. The service is also looking at appropriate incentives to improve the uptake of health assessments by young people.
10.	In January 2016, a multi-agency group named the Health and Wellbeing of LAC was established by the Designated Nurse in the Clinical Commissioning Group. The aim of the group was to ensure effective working across all agencies and services to improve the health and wellbeing of LAC in Southampton. The group is well supported and includes representatives from education, social care, foster carers, Youth Options, No Limits as well as health services such as CAMHS, sexual health and the specialist LAC health team. The group is supporting a health needs assessment of LAC which is being undertaken by a specialist registrar in public health (Health Education Wessex). This report will be completed by Jan 2017. The group provides a forum for best practice and challenge and has already improved information sharing of services to support health and wellbeing outcomes such as increased referrals to advocacy services and awareness of services and tools to support the ongoing work into child sexual exploitation.
	Wellbeing
11.	The service recognises the need to promote positive wellbeing and support young people at times of isolation and need. With this in mind we will be placing workers with a mental health knowledge into the team to work alongside the team to address mental health issues at an early stage. We are also keen to develop the service in phase 3 with more flexible working hours and access via online discussions to increase our accessibility. We will be developing a ‘champion’ scheme in the new year and encouraging members and officers to actively take part in this, offering advocacy, mentoring and support to our care leavers. Members of our corporate parenting committee have pledged to support young people through this, and also through widening opportunities for work experience and training opportunities. If young people are given access to a range of opportunities to help them make positive choices for work it will encourage positive self-esteem and emotional wellbeing alongside increasing the number who are EET.
	Participation
12.	The service plans to change the way we involve young people in our development and to increase participation. We are looking to change from our current contracted arrangement for our young people in care council and aim to employ a care experienced young person to work alongside our participation lead.
	Conclusion
13.	The information in this report, and the attached appendix, is intended to offer reassurances in respect of the improving outcomes of care leavers in Southampton. Care Leavers continue to be a priority for the service. The outcomes have improved and we are on a positive journey. Our focus needs

	to be in promoting a rise in young people in education, training and employment, using the initiatives mentioned above.	
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS		
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>		
14.	None.	
<u>Property/Other</u>		
15.	None.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS		
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>		
16.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.	
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>		
17.	None	
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS		
18.	None	
KEY DECISION		No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>		
Appendices		
1.	Performance data for care leavers	
Documents In Members' Rooms		
1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out.		No
Privacy Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.		No
Other Background Documents		
Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None	