



Derby City Council

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE
18 February 2020

ITEM 08

Report sponsor: Suanne Lim
Report authors: Jonie Centro and Antony Mains

Children in Care and Leaving Care Apprenticeship Scheme

Purpose

- 1.1 This is a combined annual overview report in relation to the Children in Care and Leaving Care Apprenticeship Scheme and an overview of Care Leavers education, employment and training (EET) performance as requested by the Corporate Parenting Committee
- 1.2 As a corporate parent we want the best for our children in care and have made a pledge to offer children in care and leaving care the opportunity to apply for apprenticeships within Derby City Council
- 1.3 The Managers of the Leaving Care Service and the Connexions Service have met with different departments in the council to ask them to offer opportunities to our children in care and leaving care. Support is given to the young people by the connexions workers to prepare them for apprenticeship and work experience interviews. We have 3 Care Leavers who have recently completed an opportunity with Derby City Council and 3 Care Leavers who completed the programme have been employed by Derby City Council.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the current position and the progress made of the Apprenticeship scheme and current EET performance.
- 2.2 To note the new handbook and options.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 To ensure that the Corporate Parenting Committee are provided with an opportunity to comment upon progress against the Children in Care and Leaving Care Apprenticeship Scheme and the performance of the Leaving Care EET.
- 3.2 Corporate Parenting Committee celebrates the success of the care leavers who have successfully completed their apprenticeships at the Annual Care Leavers Event. This is scheduled for early Spring 2020
- 3.3 Corporate Parenting Group to consider how they can influence the broadening of the offer to all local authority areas and departments

Supporting information

- 4.1 Local and national data highlights that Care Leavers are one of a number of groups who are more likely to be at risk of NEET or be over represented in the NEET group. The predicted average life-time cost to public finance for each young person who is NEET is £65,116. The total associated loss to the economy, individuals and their families is estimated at over £23 billion.

After the publication of the Centre for Social Justice report 'Delivering a Care Leavers Strategy for Traineeships and Apprenticeships' in 2016 Derby brought together the Team Manager leading on the NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training) strategy and the Leaving Care Team Manager to establish a Local Authority Care Leavers apprenticeship scheme in Derby and to establish a steering group to have an overview of progress and performance.

The process begins with the Leaving Care team and a Space@Connexions Personal Adviser identifying candidates for the programme. A decision is made with regards if the Care Leaver requires preparatory work with the Space@Connexions Personal Adviser.

- 4.2 A multi-agency support plan is given to the Care Leaver throughout the time of their placement. A database of all NEET Care Leavers referred through this process is maintained by the Steering Group. This captures the Care Leavers names, skills, aspirations and strengths, when the Care Leaver was referred, where the Care Leaver was referred to, i.e. preparatory work, traineeship, work experience or apprenticeship and the progress made. This is reviewed at every Steering Group Meeting.

Care Leavers apply for apprenticeships following the same route as per other young people to ensure compliance with the Equalities Act 2010. When the Care Leaver starts work experience, a traineeship or an apprenticeship, there is a structured review of their progress, which forms part of their statutory 6 monthly review of the Pathway Plan. If a Care Leaver exits the provision early, then the case will be taken back to the first stage of this established process.

- 4.3 Since starting the Plan we have placed Care Leavers with Adult Social Care, Participation, Business Admin, Home Care, Derby Homes, Street Pride and at the Arena in City Council apprenticeships, traineeship and work experience.

Two Care Leavers have completed every part of the process and moved from a Traineeship through an Apprenticeship and are now employed full time with the authority. Three care leavers have been employed by the authority in DMC and with Derby Homes after completing an Apprenticeship. Two care leavers have completed their apprenticeships one has gained fulltime employment in their vocational job area, bike maintenance and one has moved onto a higher level apprenticeship in animal care at Derby college.

One Care Leaver has moved into full time employment in their chosen vocational area of work after completing the Children in Care and Leaving Care Apprenticeship Scheme at the Arena

- 4.4 The overall direction of travel is good for both projects with the percentage of care leavers who are in education, employment, or training (i.e. in EET) – living outside of Derby is 59.0%. This is based upon 36 care leavers who are EET and live outside of Derby, and 61 care leavers who are either EET or not EET and live outside of Derby. There is 55.5% of Care Leavers living in Derby recorded as being EET in quarter three (2019/20). This is an increase of 2.1% from quarter two.

In order to ensure a wider offer in different vocational areas for our young people we have started to engage with external providers and business as well as the Chamber of Commerce and making use of Building Better Opportunities. There is a joined up approach to supporting Care Leavers into EET with DWP that we feel will make a significant impact upon NEET numbers over the coming year.

- 4.5 The co-location of Leaving Care and SPACE@Connexions staff ensures that support is offered to Care Leavers who are NEET to explore local opportunities in a timely manner. For those young people that are out of county then the Leaving Care personal advisers will explore the services that are available locally to support our Care Leavers into EET outcomes.
- 4.6 The Leaving Care Team have identified a new EET Lead who now monitors and tracks progress of the entire NEET cohort. This will ensure that current and future suitable opportunities are offered to Care Leavers and support provided where necessary.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 We have engaged with and obtained pledges from various Derby City Council teams including Catering, Communications, Street Pride, Leisure, Parks, Facilities Management, Sports (Derby Arena), Derby Adult Learning (DALs) and Environmental. Together with Derby Homes and Bemrose School they have committed to give Care Leavers a guaranteed interview for apprenticeship opportunities. This was achieved by the Team Manager leading on the NEET strategy and the Leaving Care Manager arranging face to face meetings with the services named above.

We have continued to work with Derby College to ensure that Care Leavers who attend the college are supported by the college's Vulnerable Learners Service to ensure that where there is any risk of drop out that support is put in place to reduce this risk.

- 5.2 Care Leaver EET and the performance of the Leaving Care Apprenticeship Scheme are part of the 2018-2020 NEET and Performance Strategy for the city. The Derby City NEET Strategy and Participation steering group have commented on and receive regular updates of progress with regards both targets.

The Care Leavers Forum has commented on plans and performance previously. The plan is for this Forum to evolve into a successful and self-organised group as evidence suggests that formal monthly meetings are not having the desired effect. We have identified a care leaver who will take this forward and facilitate meetings where further engagement will be had.

Other options

- 6.1 None Considered

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None directly arising from this report

Legal implications

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

- 9.1

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal	7 February 2020
Finance	Alison Parkin, Head of Finance Peoples Services	10 February 2020
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care	10 February 2020
Report sponsor		
Other(s)		

Background papers: List of appendices: Handbook
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