

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

<p>INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE (IYSS) SUPPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS</p>

Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr

Executive Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings

18 January 2011

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Corporate Parenting Board on the support provided by the IYSS Service to looked after children by the local authority.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the information relating to IYSS support for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent
Urgent report

If urgent, please give full reasons.

BACKGROUND & EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. IYSS in Middlesbrough came into existence on the 1st April 2010, when the former Connexions Service and Youth Service came together, to offer an enhanced service to all 13-19 year olds. The work of IYSS is underpinned by the Youth Offer, which was launched for all young people including Looked After Children and Care Leavers in November 2010. The Youth Offer consists of Targeted Youth Support, Making a Contribution, Information Advice and Guidance, and Things to Do and Places to Go.
6. Members will be aware that IYSS makes a dedicated provision for looked after children and care leavers in Middlesbrough. This provision directly contributes to all the outcomes of Every Child Matters, particularly Achieve Economic Well Being.
7. IYSS aims to support looked after children and care leavers in their progression into adult life. A successful outcome is that looked after children and care leavers should be engaged in either education, employment or training until the age of 19 and economically independent by the age of 21.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Middlesbrough	50.0	61.1	63.6	62.5
North East	68.4	70.4	68.5	67.8
England	63.4	63	64.9	63

The above table shows the work Middlesbrough Council has done to close the gap on the national and regional % of care leavers at aged 19 that are in education, employment or training

8. Each Looked After Child is offered Tier 1 (intensive) support from a Personal Adviser and is able to receive the highest frequency of quality intervention from the service. This equates to a minimum 3 hours of interpersonal contacts or 6 interventions in any twelve-month period. However, in reality, this is often exceeded, in order to deal with the complex needs of Looked After Children.
9. A partnership agreement, which is reviewed regularly and re-issued annually, exists between the IYSS and the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Services of Middlesbrough Council, and enables dedicated and specialist Personal Adviser support to be delivered to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
10. Senior Managers from IYSS are actively involved in supporting the recently launched Virtual School. A manager is present at the Virtual School steering group meetings and reports IYSS data and activity on a termly basis. The aim of this is to promote continuous improvement of provision and intervention for Looked After Children and young people, especially in regard to their transition into post 16 learning.

11. Every young person at secondary school in Middlesbrough has a named Personal Adviser. The Personal Advisers work in individual schools; the service offers, through the Lead Personal Adviser, an enhanced offer to Looked After Children. (See paragraph 4). We have a further Personal Adviser who co-ordinates the work and acts as a link to the Education Looked After Children Manager.
12. Specific Personal Adviser roles and responsibilities beginning in Year 9, and continuing are:
 - To introduce themselves as named Personal Advisers and introduce IYSS to young people, their parents and carers.
 - Liaise with Key Workers in schools to ensure support and progression.
 - Help young people to decide on their career options, plans and pathways.
 - Agree Action Plans with young people to aid career progression.
 - Make appointments at venues, relevant to the young person. Help to complete application forms for education, employment and training.
 - Attend multi disciplinary team meetings regarding young people looked after.
 - Take account of any existing assessments including: Common Assessment Framework (CAF), ASSET – Youth Offending Service, academic attainment, Statement of Special Educational Needs.
 - Contribute to Section 139A assessments for young people with special needs.
 - Supporting planned transitions from the LAC Service to the Leaving Care Service.
 - Supporting out of school, holiday activities, organised by the Looked After Team.
 - Updating IYSS CORE Management Information system following each intervention.
13. At the time of writing this report the majority of Year 11 Looked After Children in Middlesbrough have been seen at least once by their named Personal Adviser. These meetings have taken place at an appropriate time and place, and the process of progressing the individual young person into a positive future destination, whether that be in education, employment or training, has begun.
14. With regard to Looked After Children, the IYSS is currently supporting Year 9 students (9), Year 10 students (9) and Year 11 students (17). This support to 35 young people is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. There are also 41 young people with a care order made to Middlesbrough that are educated outside of Middlesbrough. IYSS has regular contact with these young people and offers support should they return to Middlesbrough.

Table 1. Proposed Post 16 Destinations for Year 11 Looked After Young People in Middlesbrough (December 2010).

Intended Destination	F	M	Grand Total
College	5	2	7
Not Yet Recorded	3	4	7
Training/Apprenticeship - no definite place		1	1
Undecided	2		2
Grand Total	10	7	17

15. IYSS works very closely with the Leaving Care Service and the two designated Personal Advisers are co-located a day each a week with the team. Joint training and development activities continue for the Personal Advisers and for the Pathway Team. The benefits of this approach are reflected in the development of clear career progression plans for all young people. In line with the 2007 Care Matters, Time for Change White Paper, IYSS extend support to all care leavers up to the age of 24. There is a clear commitment to have named advisers within IYSS.
16. When required, a transitions meeting takes place between the school based Personal Advisers and the two Personal Advisers attached to the 'Pathways' Leaving Care Team. There is then a handover of the support required for the individual young person, to ensure an effective transition.
17. IYSS, Leaving Care Service and Middlesbrough College have established "wrap around" support for young people embarking on college courses. This is due for review and could be rolled out to support young people on Foundation Learning, if successful.
18. IYSS Personal Advisers continue to support 'The Preparation for Independence' programmes offered to all care leavers and accredited by the Open College Network.
19. IYSS Personal Advisers have offered guidance to those on benefits, including young mums and those on sickness benefits to make them aware of their financial entitlement. Personal Advisers also support unaccompanied asylum seekers that are receiving a service from Pathways. The majority of these young people have been referred previously into ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at St Mary's College, where independent living skills forms part of the programme.
20. Since the inception of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), IYSS Personal Advisers have offered guidance and support to all young people including Looked After Children and Care Leavers, to maximise their entitlement. The abolition of EMA is due in January 2011 for new claimants and all claimants by the end of July 2011. Guidance from Central Government is awaited, regarding how and which young people will be eligible to claim for the successor, much more targeted allowance.

Table 2 Care Leaver Destinations 2010 for 16 year olds

Destination	F	Grand Total
Post 16 - College of Further Education	1	1
Grand Total	1	1

Table 3 Care Leaver Destinations 2010 for 17 year olds

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Moved out of Tees Valley Partnership Area to NEET		1	1
Neet Available - Not Yet Ready for Work	3		3
Neet Available - Personal Development Opportunity		1	1
Neet Available - Seeking employment, education or training	1		1
Neet Not Available - Illness	1		1
Neet Not Available - Supporting Family - Teenage Parents	2		2
Post 16 - College of Further Education	1		1
Post 16 -School Year 13	1		1
Training - Foundation Learning/E2E Training		1	1
Grand Total	9	3	12

Table 4 Care Leaver Destinations 2010 for 18 year olds

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Employment with no Training, Client not at Level 2	4		4
Left Education in Partnership area (non-resident)		1	1
Moved out of Tees Valley Partnership Area to NEET		1	1
Moved out of Tees valley Partnership into Education	1		1
Neet Available - Not Yet Ready for Work	1	2	3
Neet Available - Seeking employment, education or training		3	3
Neet Not Available - Illness - Expired		1	1
Neet Not Available - Pregnancy	2		2
Other - Not Known		1	1
Post 16 - College of Further Education	2	2	4
Post 16 - School Year 13	1		1
Post 16 - School Year 14	1	3	4
Training - Foundation Apprenticeship Not Employed - working towards level 2		1	1
Unknown		1	1
Grand Total	12	16	28

Table 5 Care Leaver Destinations 2010 for 19 year olds

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Employment with no Training, Client not at Level 2	1		1
Employment with Training leading to Level 2		1	1
Moved out of Tees valley partnership area into Education	1		1
Moved out of Tees Valley Partnership Area into Other Known Activity	1		1
Moved out of Tees Valley Partnership Area to NEET	1		1
Neet Available - Not Yet Ready for Work	1	3	4
Neet Available - Seeking employment, education or training	2		2
Neet Not Available - Other May Never Be Economically Active	1	1	2
Neet Not Available - Supporting Family - Teenage Parents	2		2
Other - Custodial Sentence		3	3
Post 16 - College of Further Education	1	2	3
Training - Foundation Apprenticeship Not Employed - working towards level 2	1	1	2
Training Govt Supported Not Employed e.g. New Deal		1	1
Grand Total	12	12	24

Table 6 Care Leaver Destinations 2010 for 20 year olds

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Employment with no Training, Client not at Level 2		1	1
Moved out of Tees valley partnership area into NEET		1	1
Moved out of Tees Valley Partnership Area into Other Known Activity	1		1
Neet Not Available - Illness		1	1
Neet Not Available - Other May Never Be Economically Active		1	1
Neet Not Available - Other Reason		1	1
Neet Not Available - Pregnancy	1		1
Neet Not Available - Supporting Family - Teenage Parents	2		2
Other - Custodial Sentence		1	1
Other - No Longer in COHORT Age Other	2		2
Other - Not Known		2	2
Post 16 - College of Further Education	1		1
Training Govt Supported Not Employed e.g. New Deal		2	2
Grand Total	7	10	17

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

21. This is a joint approach with proven success, however the IYSS is open to any suggestions of new methods of working and ways of giving fuller support to all young people.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

22. There are no specific financial or legal implications arising from this report. Services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers apply to all wards.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to advise the Executive to note the information relating to IYSS support for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

REASONS

24. To enable Elected Members to be aware of the support provided by IYSS to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

25. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- Children And Young People's Plan 2008-2011
 - Draft Integrated Youth Support Service Action Plan

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