

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## Corporate Parenting Board

### INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE (IYSS) SUPPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

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

**Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings**

**2 February 2012**

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#### 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.

#### BACKGROUND

2. Over the last year, IYSS has established itself as the main provider of open access services to all young people 13-19 in the town. A key part of this delivery was the support offered to Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Due to national changes via new government legislation and budgetary requirements the service is reconfiguring to focus primarily on vulnerable and targeted young people. Officers are presently considering the implications of the recent government publication entitled 'Positive for Youth', which is the new cross government policy for young people 13-19, (published in December 2011).
3. 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 the Middlesbrough Children and Young People Plan.
4. 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	2009/10	2010/11
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	50	61.1	63.6	62.5	66.7	58.8
<b>North East</b>	68.4	70.4	68.5	67.8	70.3	64
<b>England</b>	63.4	63	64.9	63	62.1	61

*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*

5. 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 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. An example of this is how looked after children or leaving care young people can access positive activities. Looked after children were actively encouraged to take part in positive activities during Summer 2011, included within this was the National Citizenship Service pilot.
6. A partnership agreement, which is reviewed regularly and re-issued annually, exists between the IYSS and the Virtual School incorporating 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 as and when required.
7. 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 coordinates the work and acts as a link to the Education Looked After Children Manager.
8. 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.
  - Promote positive activities/opportunities including the National Citizenship Service pilot and encourage attendance at open access youth facilities.
  - Prepare a transition report for each individual, where appropriate, the intention of which is to improve the success rate of transition to post 16 providers.
  - Updating IYSS CORE Management Information system following each intervention.
9. 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.
10. With regard to Looked After Children, the IYSS is currently supporting Year 9 students (17), Year 10 students (17) and Year 11 students (16). This support to 50 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 2011).**

<b>Intended Destination</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
College	4	2	6
Not Yet Obtained	1	1	2
Other		1	1
Staying in same school	2	2	4
Training/Apprenticeship - no definite place	1	2	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>

11. IYSS works very closely with the Leaving Care Service and now has 4 designated Personal Advisers who are co-located half a day a week with the team. This means coverage over 4 days instead of 2. Two of these staff are now male, which has been seen as positive from staff and young people. 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.

12. When required, a transitions meeting takes place between the school based Personal Advisers and the 4 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.
13. IYSS have recently started discussions with Teesside University, the purpose of which is to increase the number of looked after children and leaving care young people going onto higher education. University staff are promoting taster days for young people post 16 and awareness briefings for foster carers around finance and course provision. It is envisaged that Personal Advisers will be integral to this and are presently in the process of developing close working relationships with University staff.
14. IYSS Personal Advisers continue to support 'The Preparation for Independence' programmes offered to all care leavers and accredited by the Open College Network.
15. 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 Middlesbrough College or Stockton Riverside College where independent living skills forms part of the programme.
16. There has been a significant reduction of service provision for young people over the last 12 months and this is due to the changing nature of how the former Connexions Service and Youth Services were delivered across England. In some areas this lack of provision is having a major impact on supporting young people from Middlesbrough who are placed in care or leaving care in other local authority areas.
17. On a local level, negotiations are well advanced within the Tees Valley area to establish a protocol on cross boarder activities and to support looked after children and young people leaving care. However, regionally and nationally there is not the same mechanism in place to establish effective cross border cooperation, particularly as some areas no longer have young people's service provision in place.
18. Relevant staff from within the local authority are now meeting to discuss how the needs of these young people can be met and this group will report back with proposals and solutions.

**Table 2 Care Leaver Destinations 2012 for 16 year olds**

Destination	F	Grand Total
Pregnancy	1	1
Grand Total	1	1

**Table 3 Care Leaver Destinations 2012 for 17 year olds**

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Custodial Sentence		1	1
Further Education	1		1
Grand Total	1	1	2

**Table 4 Care Leaver Destinations 2011 for 18 year olds**

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Currency Expired	1		1
LSC E2E funded training	1		1
Not Yet Ready for Work	1	2	3
Seeking employment, education or training	1	3	4
Supporting Family – Teenage Parents	2		2
Supporting Family – Young Carers		1	1
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	2	1	3
Neet Available - Not Yet Ready for Work	1		1
Neet Available - Seeking employment, education or training	2	1	3
Neet Not Available - Supporting Family - Teenage Parents	1		1
Neet Not Available - Teenage Parent - Maternity Leave	1		1
Post 16 - College of Further Education	4	3	7
Training - Foundation Learning/E2E Training		1	1
Grand Total	18	13	31

**Table 5 Care Leaver Destinations 2011 for 19 year olds**

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Employment which does not have any training leading to NVQ2 or equivalent and which does not have locally recognised good quality training – client already at “level 2”		1	1
FMA (Employee Status)		1	1
New Deal		1	1
Not Yet Ready for Work	2	2	4
Other GST (eg, LA or ESF funded provision)	1		1
Other LSC funded training		1	1
Seeking employment, education or training		1	1
Employment with no Training, Client not at Level 2		1	1
Left Area for Unknown Destination		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		2	2
Neet Available - Not Yet Ready for Work	1		1

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Neet Not Available - Supporting Family - Teenage Parents	2		2
Other - Refugees/Asylum Seeker/Not Yet Citizen		1	1
Grand Total	6	14	20

**Table 6 Care Leaver Destinations 2011 for 20 year olds**

Destination	F	M	Grand Total
Employment which does not have any training leading to NVQ2 or equivalent and which does not have locally recognised good quality training – client not at “level 2”		1	1
Not Yet Ready for Work		2	2
Employment with no Training, Client achieved Level 2		1	1
Employment with no Training, Client not at Level 2	1	1	2
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 to NEET	2		2
Neet Available - Not Yet Ready for Work	1	1	2
Neet Available - Personal Development Opportunity		1	1
Neet Available - Seeking employment, education or training		2	2
Neet Not Available - Supporting Family - Teenage Parents	3		3
Other - Custodial Sentence		1	1
Post 16 - College of Further Education		1	1
Unknown	3		3
Grand Total	11	12	23

## OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

19. 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

20. 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

21. 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

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

23. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Children And Young peoples Plan 2011-2014
- Draft Integrated Youth Support Service Action Plan

**Author:** John Keelty, Integrated Youth Support Service Manager  
**Tel:** 01642 811130

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*Website: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>*