

Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 7 August 2018

Title of report: Care Leavers engagement in education, training or employment (ETE)

Purpose of report: Update Corporate Parenting Board on Care Leavers engagement in education, training or employment (ETE)

Key Decisions - To accept report

Date signed off by the Director of Childrens Services:

Cabinet Member Portfolio Lead: Cllr Mike Carr

1. Summary report

To provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an update on Care Leavers engagement in education, training or employment (ETE).

Middlesbrough Council has a team dedicated to Care Leavers at the Pathways Team. For young people leaving care who have additional needs there is the Transitions Team which is managed by Adult Social Care, with input from Children's Safeguarding. The work of each team is underpinned by legislation, chiefly, the Leaving Care Act 2000, The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 (Volume 3) and the Care Act 2014.

The Pathways and Transitions Teams work directly with young people to assess need and to plan for their individual transition to adulthood. The planning is person centred and aims to ensure that the young person has maximum opportunity to lead a happy, healthy and fulfilling life and to make a positive contribution to their community.

The Pathways (Leaving Care) Team is currently working with 138 Care Leavers.

The current performance data indicates that 58% of Care Leavers are engaging in education, training or employment (ETE). (Age 16-25)

The national average (DOE, 2017) for care leavers engaging in education, training and employment is 55%. This percentage relates to care leavers between 19-21 years of age. When the same parameters are applied to the care leavers performance dashboard for Pathways (Leaving Care) Team the percentage of care leavers engaging in education, training or employment drops to 52%.

Consequently 48% of care leavers do not engage in education, training or employment (NEET) which is of concern.

There are 12 Care Leavers attending higher education. So 8% of Care Leavers attend higher education (which is higher than the national average of 7% (DOE, 2017).

It should be noted that the information proved is against our 903 return which is as requested by the DfE as a snapshot of young people in a particular cohort as at their 18/18/20 and 21st birthdays.

Going forward we will be reporting on all young people aged 16-25 and showing their actual involvement in ETE. This more comprehensive report will be brought to a Board meeting later in the year.

2. Information required for the Board to make a decision

In Middlesbrough the number of young people in education, training or employment (ETE) is below the national average therefore measures need to be put in place to target these young people.

The Pathways Team and Stronger Families team plan to implement the following measures aimed at raising aspirations and engagement levels of care leavers in education, training or employment.

Actions to be implemented

- Work Readiness Practitioner (stronger families) to work with the Personal Advisers and Social Workers to encourage young people to access learning.
- Training to be delivered to Personal Advisers and Social Workers regarding the role of the Work Readiness Practitioner.
- Personal Advisers and Social Workers to be more involved in implementing actions from any careers information, advice and guidance provided by the Work Readiness Practitioner.
- Work Readiness Practitioner to continue to encourage young people to engage in education, employment or training by delivering taster events and 1:1 support.
- Work Readiness Practitioner to continue to meet with Personal Advisers and Social Workers on a monthly basis to ensure that young people are identified when needing support.
- Middlesbrough Community Learning to be invited to do training with Pathways staff to improve retention on programmes.
- Mock interviews - look at involving staff across the Council in providing mock interviews for LAC/care leavers.
- NEET event (September 2018) - Coordinate a NEET event specifically for Care Leavers and involve young people in the planning and style of the event.
- Work Readiness Practitioner and nominated Personal Adviser to become champions for apprenticeships.
- Promote the new National Apprenticeship Bursary for care leavers which launches in August 2018.

- The Care2Work meeting to continue to raise the profile and opportunities for LAC/Care Leavers.
- The Pathways Team to work closely with the Virtual School to create a Personal Education Plan for young people not engaging in education, training or employment.
- Pathway Plans to be SMART when it comes to actions to engage Care Leavers in education, training and employment.

3. Implications for the Council

We work with a cohort of the young people with a wide variety of complex issues due to their life experiences. It can be challenging at times to engage these young people in education, training or employment due to number of issues such as parenting/pregnancy, illness/disability or lifestyles choices.

Overall within the Pathways Team we have 58 (42%) care leavers, who do not engage in education, training or employment (NEET). However from the cohort of 58 care leavers who are NEET, 21 (36%) are NEET due to parenting or pregnancy and 8 (13%) are NEET due to illness or disability.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The Work Readiness Practitioner will be coordinating a NEET event in September 2018 and will be liaising with the Care Leavers Forum for advice and guidance regarding the planning and style of the event.

4. Next steps.

- The Work Readiness Practitioner will be liaising with educational establishments, training providers, and employers to coordinate the NEET events.
- The Team Manager and the Work Readiness Practitioner will be arranging training sessions for the Pathways staff in order to clearly define roles.
- Development work will continue in order to offer LAC/Care Leavers mock interviews
- Personal Advisers and Social Workers to become more involved in implementing actions from any careers information, advice and guidance. Personal Advisers and

Social Workers to “hand hold” the young people who may need it to attend appointments/interviews.

- The Work Readiness Practitioner to continue to encourage young people in an attempt to engage then with education, employment or training.
- Middlesbrough Community Learning will be invited to the Pathways Team meeting to focus on improving retention on programmes
- A Personal Adviser to be nominated to work alongside the Work Readiness Practitioner to raise awareness of apprenticeships and the new national bursary.
- The Care2Work meeting to continue to raise the profile and opportunities for LAC/Care Leavers.
- The Pathways Team to work closely with the Virtual School to create a Personal Education Plan for young people not engaging in education, training or employment.
- Pathway Plan training to be delivered to be Pathways Team with the focus on SMART targets when it comes to actions to engage Care Leavers in education, training and employment.

For information: this is our comparator against our local/regional partners

DFE: SFR50/2017	Care leavers now aged 19, 20 and 21 who were looked after for a total of at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday including some time after their 16th birthday	Total number in education, employment or training	% ETE
Middlesbrough	120	40	33.3%
Hartlepool	65	35	53.8%
South Tyneside	80	35	43.8%
Halton	40	20	50.0%
Knowsley	75	30	40.0%
Rochdale	140	75	53.6%
Salford	170	105	61.8%
Tameside	125	65	52.0%
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	155	95	61.3%
North East Lincolnshire	55	25	45.5%
Stoke-On-Trent	160	60	37.5%
Stat Neighbours	1065	545	51.2%
England	27010	13400	49.6%

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the Board accept the recommendations which are:

The Pathways Team and Stronger Families to implement a range of measures aimed at raising aspirations and the engagement of care leavers in education, training or employment.

The Pathways Team to continue to monitor the number of Care Leavers engaging in education, training or employment and provide the board with regular updates.

6. Background Papers and History of Decisions (where applicable)

7. Contact officer: Anthony Coulson: Team Manager Pathways

8. Director responsible: Alison Brown

