

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL CARE & SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO PREPARE FOR ADULTHOOD & INDEPENDENCE - ACTION PLAN**

Executive – 20th June 2023

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	POST TITLE	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p><u>Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</u></p> <p>A) That clear pathways be established for young people, whatever their status (care leavers, SEN or having a disability), including flowcharts, to help young people and practitioners understand processes in place, options available and ensuring everyone is aware of available support/services.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Transition Pathway to be identified for all young people 2) CWD and SEN HOS to consider the Local Offer for Becoming an Adult to be reviewed and updated in line with Scrutiny recommendation. 3) Middlesbrough Children Matter Website Care Leavers section to be reviewed and updated 4) Care Leavers Strategy & Offer to be reviewed and updated 	<p>Executive Director of Children's Services, Director Children Care, Heads of Service.</p>		<p>September 2023</p>
<p>B) Whilst the SEND and Inclusion, Children with Disabilities, Early Help and Pathways (Leaving Care) services all work closely with Adult Social Care colleagues to ensure a smooth transition to adult social care, where determined appropriate, the Panel recommends that an Adult Social Worker be allocated to the young person between the age of 17 and 17.5 years to ensure a smooth handover and seamless transition for the young person and their family/carers and to establish appropriate pathways plans, clearly setting out how the young person will be supported to become an independent adult and identifying the team around the young person.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work collaboratively with partners and adult services to identify and ensure that the relevant young people are presented at transition panels. 2) Relevant Team Manager to meet with counterparts in Adult Services every 3 months to identify those young people who may need support from Adult Services. 3) Transitions flow chart created in CWD service between children's and Adults Services to be approved at SMT and published on Middlesbrough's Heart and Local offer. 4) SEN PFA Lead to update pathway and transitions- co-working with health and social care to align transitions 5) Social workers to present children at 	<p>All</p> <p>Team Managers of allocated social workers</p> <p>HOS for CWD</p> <p>SEN PFA Lead</p> <p>Identified social workers</p>		<p>September 2023</p>

	<p>age 14 to transitions forum to notify adult services of possible future support</p> <p>6) Adult social care team manager to allocate an adult social worker, from age 16. Identified young people to have co worked transition depending on complexity of the young persons needs.</p> <p>7) Adult social care team manager to ensure that all young people to have an adult social worker from age 17.5 to support transition</p> <p>8) Health services to identify a co-worker at age 17.5 for young people identified as being fully health funded at age 18.</p>	<p>with Team manager oversight</p> <p>Adult Social Care Team Manager</p> <p>Adult Social Care Team Manager</p> <p>Team Manager/ Health Practice Lead</p>		
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C) To bridge the gap for a small number of young people with a disability or learning difficulty where their needs assessment outcome is a health need, that health colleagues begin to work with the young person from age 17, rather than 18, to ensure a smooth transition from Children's Social Care, again with clear pathway planning (as B. above).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Relevant HOS to discuss with health colleagues the transition process 2) Team managers to ensure that young people are presented in a timely manner to the appropriate Health Panels taking into account young people's needs. 3) Point 8 as above 4) Team managers to identify young people who may meet criteria for adult DST for full or joint funding by age 16 and paperwork to be submitted in a timely manner. 	<p>CWD HOS</p> <p>Relevant Team manager</p> <p>Relevant Team Manager to have oversight</p> <p>Relevant Team manager/ Health Practice Lead</p>		September 2023
D) That work with Health colleagues be strengthened, particularly around joint commissioning and that appropriate health colleagues be invited to relevant groups and Strategic Board meetings associated with SEND to ensure joint working and service development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Where Strategic Boards are identified in relation to SEND as a need relevant Chair to ensure that Health Colleagues are invited to ensure joint working. 2) DCO for health services to be invited to SEN development platforms for input and joint working 3) Health Practice lead for social care to be invited to SEN development platforms for input and joint working 	<p>Relevant Chair Senior Manager</p> <p>HOS of SEND</p> <p>HOS of SEND</p>		September 2023
E) To establish a mechanism, including a Forum for parents/carers, to raise awareness between all groups associated with SEND so that everyone is aware of the work taking place within each of the groups so that opportunities for collaboration can be identified and duplication can be avoided.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CWD HOS to attend meeting with and support Parents4Change. 2) Parents4Change to attend development meetings in relation to SEND 3) The model in actions 2 to be replicated in CWD service by team managers to support collaboration 4) DSCO to attend CHSWG parent led group alongside NDCS for further 	<p>CWD HOS</p> <p>SEND development meeting Co-ordinator</p> <p>Relevant Team managers</p> <p>DSCO</p>		Actions 1,2 & 4 in place currently. Action 3 – by July 2023.

	reach to alternative parent led groups and for information and key points to be shared back to social care.			
F)	To ensure effective use of the Education Health and Care (EHC) process for young people with an identified SEND, up to the age of 25, to drive decision making and commissioning decisions in respect of the young person.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Relevant HOS to develop a commissioning forum for social care funding decisions for children with EHCP 2) DSCO to be included in the forum/ panel listed in action 1 for consistency as a social care representative who attends SEN resource panel 3) Team managers to ensure EHCP's are considered as part of all planning for children 4) DSCO to run a SEN support clinic which is attended by SEN managers and social care to offer advice and actions for social care practitioners around next steps in decision making for young people 	<p>HOS of SEND</p> <p>DSCO</p> <p>Relevant Team Managers</p> <p>DSCO</p>	September 2023

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<p><u>Care Leavers</u></p> <p>G) In line with Ofsted's findings from its monitoring visit to the Pathways (Leaving Care) Service in November 2022, in relation to areas requiring improvement, the Panel recommends that these areas be taken forward as part of the Improvement Plan and that progress be monitored and reported back to the Panel in six months' time.</p>	<p>1) Identified actions from the focused visit and the ILACS inspection will be incorporated within the post ILACS action plan.</p> <p>2) Updated Care Leavers Strategy & Offer will be implemented to demonstrate increased aspiration for all young people through transition into adulthood.</p>	<p>Head of Service for Pathways</p> <p>All</p>		<p>On-going. Monthly reviews of progress. To be fully embedded by September 2023.</p>
<p>H) Ensure that all young people in care are introduced to the Pathways (Leaving Care) service at age 16 and that the process of being allocated a Personal Advisor to help support them in the transition of leaving care and preparation for independence be fully discussed with young people, taking into consideration their views and wishes.</p>	<p>1) Young people to receive support in relation to leaving care from the age of 16 years old and Pathway plans be completed, articulating the support needed for young people.</p> <p>2) Joint working between social workers and personal assistants (PA) for all young people from the age of 17 years.</p>	<p>Service Manager Pathways Team Managers Social workers</p>		<p>September 2023.</p>
<p>I) That adequate preparation and support in essential skills (such as cooking, shopping and money management) should be discussed as early as possible and regularly with young people to ensure they feel confident when leaving care and also that they are aware of who they can contact for help and support if needed.</p>	<p>1) Team Managers, Social workers and PA's to review young people's needs as part of the Pathway planning and to offer support and signpost to services.</p>	<p>Team Managers, Social workers & PA's</p>		<p>On-going and reviewed monthly.</p>

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<p><u>Term of Reference A – To consider how the Council seeks to secure employment or training for young people with care experience and/or special needs</u></p> <p>J) That there is greater promotion of Middlesbrough Community Learning across all Council services, particularly Children’s Services, to ensure all staff are aware of the support that MCL can offer to young people, particularly those with care experience, additional needs or those who are NEET. This should include:-</p> <p>i) Appropriate representatives (Head of Service/Managers from the MCL Teams) to attend a Children’s Services DMT/LMT to promote their work and advise how they can potentially support vulnerable young people in a range of post-16 employment, education, training or apprenticeship pathways available to them. The information should be disseminated to Team Managers and staff across Children’s Services to ensure that all Social Workers, Practitioners and Personal Advisors are aware of the pathways available through MCL and to appropriately signpost young people (and their families/carers) to the service.</p> <p>ii) Better promotion of the 50 Futures Programme across all Council services, including information on</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Relevant HOS to be invited to LMT to discuss need and supporting young people into education and employment 2) Social workers, PA’s sharing education Employment and Training through the Pathway plan 3) PA’s to be based in in-house services offering informal advice and guidance to young people in relation to Education Employment and Training 4) 50 Futures to be invited to the leaving care job club for young people leaving care. 	<p>Relevant HOS</p> <p>Social workers and PA’s</p> <p>PA’s with oversight of relevant managers</p> <p>Relevant Team managers</p>		<p>August 2023</p>

<p>support provided to placement providers and the benefits of providing a 50 Futures placement for a young person.</p>				
<p>K) That the Action Plan currently being developed with the Virtual School and MCL be provided to the Panel upon completion, for information, and that students currently monitored by the virtual school be provided with the advice needed, in sufficient time before leaving school, of the pathways available to them, including those available through MCL for those where college was not a viable option.</p>	<p>1) PEP advisors to advise young people of their options when leaving school in their year 11 PEP. 2) Work readiness to work with young people 16+ to identify next steps 3) Social workers to work with young people to consider option for future learning through pathway planning.</p>	<p>PEP advisors Work Readiness manager Allocated social workers</p>		<p>This is in place.</p>
<p><u>Term of Reference B - To look at ways in which young people with care experience are supported and encouraged to actively participate – with service development and part within their community</u></p> <p>L) The Panel supports the continuation of ongoing work by the Council’s Participation Team with a range of care experienced young people through a range of groups and forums and encourages alternative, innovative ways of engaging those young people who may not necessarily want to meet in person but may still have valuable feedback to share in terms of shaping service development, for example, through the app/online.</p>	<p>1) PA’s to base in in-house services which will help with engagement for young people who do not want to attend groups. 2) Participation team to continue to visit looked after children directly enabling them to give a voice as to what they want or how they feel. 3) Care Leavers forum to be set up by Pathways enabling those young people leaving care the ability to engage with their views wishes and feelings</p>	<p>Team manager leaving care Participation Manager Team manager leaving care</p>		<p>On-going work to engage CLA and Care Leavers. Review to take place July 2023.</p>

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<p>M) To strengthen the programme of participation and inclusion for young people with SEND, and their families/carers, in order for them to contribute to service development, policies and procedures – ensuring their needs are met.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) See proposed actions in L above. 2) Annual Youth conference to capture young people’s voices to take place 3) Inclusion, participation and youth voice workstream to be completed as a working project with multi-agency attendees and Parents4Change. 	<p>Participation Manager SEND and inclusion Managers</p>		<p>On-going work. Review monthly.</p>
<p><u>Term of Reference C - To consider, where it is appropriate for a young person to move to supported accommodation or independent living, the options available and the support provided to young people and their families/carers (where appropriate) to prepare and plan for independent living</u></p> <p>N) The Panel is supportive of the future accommodation proposals being developed in partnership with housing providers, particularly in relation to care leavers, and requests an update in relation to progress in the next six months.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HOS for supported Accommodation and leaving care to form part of the housing workstream 2) HOS to provide DCC, DCS and panel an update in relation to the housing offer in the next 6 months. 	<p>HOS Leaving Care, SA HOS Leaving Care, SA</p>		<p>The work to increase the accommodation available to care leavers in on-going. Update to be provided within 6 months from 20.06.23.</p>
<p>O) That, in the development of the future accommodation proposals for care leavers, all relevant partners work together to ensure a package of holistic support is provided for each individual, tailored to meet their specific needs and that a detailed plan be produced, clearly setting out each element of the support to be provided to the individual. This plan should</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recruitment of a Registered Service Manager responsible for the supported Accommodation offer in Middlesbrough to be appointed. 2) Supported Accommodation to be registered with Ofsted 3) HOS and business support to take a lead role in the housing offer 4) HOS and business support to work closely with MBC Housing, Thirteen and 	<p>HOS SA Care leavers SM SA and HOS Relevant HOS Relevant HOS</p>	<p>1x Grade P role already considered</p>	<p>On-going work in progress – review July 2023.</p>

be provided to the young person and shared with professionals supporting them.	other providers in relation to suitable vacant properties.			
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<p>P) That all accommodation is checked by the housing provider and relevant children's social care staff to ensure that it meets the required living standards and is located in an area considered to be suitable for the young person, also taking into consideration the young person's wishes.</p>	<p>1) all accommodation for the use of supported accommodation to be included within the registration with Ofsted 2) A locality risk assessment to be completed for each property proposed/used for Supported Accommodation 3) Young people's views regarding housing offer to be captured by Social workers/PA's</p>	<p>Service Manager for SA Service Manager for SA Social Workers PA's</p>		<p>On-going work. Update to be provided September 2023.</p>
<p>Q) Once finalised and approved, the proposals for independent tenancies with RSLs (housing providers) should be incorporated into the Sufficiency Action Plan (theme 4 – Improving Placements and Support for Care Leavers) which forms part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.</p>	<p>1) Lead officer in relation to the sufficiency action plan to consider having added independent tenancies to the action plan and to review the plan in a timely manner.</p>	<p>Lead Officer</p>		<p>To be reviewed in 9 months</p>
<p>R) That a directory be compiled for young people moving to independent living accommodation containing essential information about the property, local area and amenities and support contact numbers for services/support across all relevant partners (social care, housing, health services, police).</p>	<p>1) Supported accommodation guide to be created for in-house provision detailing what support and activities there are in the local area. 2) Middlesbrough Children Matter Website Care Leavers section to be reviewed and updated to reflect need to know information.</p>	<p>Service Managers for SA Service Managers for SA and care leavers</p>		<p>September 2023</p>

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<p><u>Term of Reference D - To examine how care experienced young people are supported with budgeting their finances and how they are supported to ensure their physical and emotional health needs are met</u></p> <p>S) That, as part of ensuring care leavers are provided with support in essential life skills, particular focus be placed on managing finances and budgeting and as part of the accommodation offer for care leavers, detailed planning in relation to financial entitlements and benefits are clearly set out for each young person.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Social workers and PA's to complete work with young people around understanding of their finances and entitlements and benefits. This will be recorded within the Pathway plan and visits. 2) Team Managers to oversee and offer support and guidance to social workers and PA's through supervision and management oversight. 	<p>Social workers and PA's</p> <p>Team Managers</p>		<p>This is in place and will continue to be reviewed through regular supervision and audit.</p>
<p>T) All care leavers should be provided with information, as part of their Pathway Plan, as to where they can access help with their mental health and emotional well-being, including access to the dedicated CAMHS worker who is part of the Pathways service team, and other relevant services/support/peer groups to avoid social isolation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) PA's and Social workers to offer a relational approach in line with practice model enabling young people to open up and discuss how they feel. 2) Social workers and PA's to discuss and offer support from CAMHS role based in pathways. 3) Referrals and signposting to relevant support and services. 	<p>Social Workers and PA's</p> <p>Social Workers and PA's</p> <p>Social Workers and PA's</p>		<p>This is in place and will continue to be reviewed through regular supervision and audit.</p>
<p>U) The Panel welcomes the introduction of Health Passports for young people leaving care as it provides essential medical history for young people in the future. The Panel feels this is an essential document and requests that the importance of the document is discussed and reinforced to young people on a regular basis.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Social workers, PA's and Resource Workers will complete direct work with young people around health needs/ health passports & support to complete where necessary. 2) Identified workers will support young people to attend appointments where relevant. 	<p>Social Workers, PA's, Resource Workers and Young People.</p>		<p>This work is in progress. Update to be provided September 2023.</p>

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<p>V) That relevant partners (Health, Children’s Social Care and Adoption Tees Valley) explore the possibility of providing a similar health passport for young people who become adopted.</p>	<p>1) ATV and other partners to consider the use of health passports for adopted children, where relevant.</p>	<p>Adoption Lead, Health and ATV.</p>		<p>Review by December 2023.</p>
<p><u>Term of Reference E - To look at how young people with care experience and/or additional needs are supported to become more independent in travelling to school/college/other education settings/places of employment, or to help them become more independent with travelling socially</u></p> <p>W) The Panel is supportive of the independent travel training (ITT) provided to young people to help them have confidence to travel independently to education/employment settings or socially. It recommends that ITT be offered to all young people in Middlesbrough with SEND and/or care experience, where it is deemed they have capacity to travel independently and that this be monitored.</p>	<p>1) Young people abilities to use public transport to be discussed during reviews of their Pathway Plan and as part of the pathway to independence, travel training will be considered as part of the transition to adulthood.</p>	<p>Social worker, PA’s</p>		<p>September 2023.</p>