

Report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 5 November 2018

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Subject: Through Care Service

Summary statement:

Updated Report regarding Bradford's Local Offer to Care Leavers, Progress regarding Apprenticeships, 16+ provision, and impact of implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, that a service is provided to Care Leavers up to the age of 25.

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Overview and Scrutiny Area :

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

In March 2018 a report was presented to Corporate Parenting Panel focusing on key issues in the responsibilities of the Through Care Team, particularly for Care Leavers. A further report was requested for later in the year to report on the following information.

- Bradford's Local Offer for Care Leavers.
- An update on progress in relation to apprenticeships.
- An update in relation to the national challenge from Ofsted regarding 16+ supported accommodation being a regulated care setting.
- The impact on the Service's resources as a result of the requirement, under the provisions of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, that a service is provided to care leavers up to the age of 25.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report will not repeat the information from the report earlier in the year. The Through Care Team currently work with 584 children who are looked after made up of 25 0-4 year olds, 138 5-9 year olds, 293 10-15 year olds and 153 16-17 year olds. The team works with 494 care leavers. This includes the 16-17 year olds who are looked after, 274 18-20 year olds and 34 aged 21+. There is a small number of 16-18 year olds who are care leavers but who are not looked after. These are young people who have been looked after and have care leaver status as a result.

All children who are looked after have an allocated social worker. From the age of 18 they are allocated a Community Resource Worker and the Community Resource Worker is introduced prior to this time with some young people having a second worker from the age of 16.

- 2.2 **Bradford's Local Offer to Care Leavers** has been published (See Appendix1) and is now being developed to sit within Bradford's 'Youth Info' website. A link to the draft for this is at the end of this report. The Local Offer has been developed in conjunction with the Children in Care Council and partner agencies. The Local Offer is broken down into 9 key chapters. These are Supporting our Care Leavers, Your Rights, A Place to Live, Staying Healthy, Education, Training and Jobs, Safe and Good Relationships, Your Community, Your Money and Entitlements and The Leap Team. The on line offer contains direct links to local and national websites that provide support to young people and specifically to care leavers.

The Children in Care Council and other young people have recently been involved in a photo shoot and these photos will be added to the web based Local Offer. There is also a plan to include 'talking heads' videos so that the Local Offer is available in another format. Some of these will be young people talking.

2.3 Apprenticeships

This area is still an on-going area for development within Through Care. Rachel Curtis and Emma Collingwood, Service Managers, have been invited to Kersten England's Managers Meeting within the next three months to discuss how Bradford meets its responsibilities as a Corporate Parent to its Care Leavers with regard to apprenticeship offer.

The Service Managers are also meeting with Tina Lafferty and the Chair of the Cross Department Equality Group to facilitate discussions regarding the positive use of Equality legislation and Human Resource processes in order to have the facility to 'ring fence' apprenticeships and traineeships for our Care Leavers, this is Through Care aspiration for our young people.

Emma has been working with the LEAP team to refresh and review its 'offer' to Bradford Care Leavers. Analysis of the last 3 cohorts of young people (48) is clear that LEAP need to prioritise qualifications and enabling a young person to be 'work ready'. With this in mind we are drafting up a new LEAP traineeship. Our aspiration is that LEAP will be making a request to the 'corporate parent' to provide work experience opportunities within the Council for its children and all young people on the LEAP Traineeship will be offered a work experience opportunity within the Council.

2.4 16+ Supported Accommodation in Unregulated Settings

On occasions children who are looked after and 16 or above are placed in 'other arrangements' (Regulation 27, Care Planning, Placement and Case Planning Regulations 2010) which is known as an 'unregulated setting'. Before making such a placement the local authority should establish that this is a suitable placement for the child in question and his or her particular needs and should be satisfied about the quality of the provision and the care provided.

Through Care have partnerships in place via a robust commissioning process with Horton Housing and Centrepont. They have the capacity to support 54 young people aged 16 to 18 across 4 group living environments and 1 x 9 bedded studio flat property. Operational meetings are every 6 weeks where every young person is discussed in details and progress tracked and monitored.

We currently have 15 young people placed in 16+ supported accommodation specialist provision that is not regulated by Ofsted. Seven of these are placed in Bradford and 8 of these are out of Bradford. Those placed out of Bradford have been placed out of Bradford either because they need to be out of Bradford for their own safety, because they were previously living out of Bradford and to maintain links with education or because the most appropriate placement was only available out of Bradford. Those placed in Bradford are placed with providers we know well and have strong working relationships with.

- 2.5 Earlier in 2018 there was information to suggest that Ofsted were concerned about the use of such provision (which is not inspected). At the time of writing this report the September 2018 Ofsted inspection of Bradford has not been published but information was prepared regarding all placements in unregulated settings.

All our children placed in unregulated settings are visited very regularly, and closely monitored through case supervision and looked after children reviews. Most of these children have some complex issues and there is multi-disciplinary involvement to address these needs.

We are currently undergoing a commissioning process for 16+ provision and these settings will be incorporated into this. This will provide an even greater structure for ensuring quality in the provision that we are using.

2.6 **Impact of the Provision of Service to young people up to the age of 25**

We are still in the early days of providing a service to Care Leavers up to the age of 25 and are currently working with 34 care leavers who are aged 21+.

Once young people reach the age of 21 they discuss their situation with their worker and in most situations their case will be closed. They are informed of their right to have further support up to the age of 25 and how to access that support.

Examples of the support being provided to these young people are:

A young person who was given life story information when younger and information from her case file previously, but wanted to re look at this with support with someone now she is older, particularly after some significant losses.

A young person whose situation at university broke down due to mental health issues, who then returned to previous carers in Bradford and to employment locally. They now want to pursue university again and are being supported with a view to starting university in September 2019.

Another young person's start in Higher Education was very stop/ start initially and he needed a lot of support at this time. He became more settled and is now in his final year of his degree in Leeds.

Another young person wanted some advice regarding their Universal Credit Claim and 'popped into' our over 21 drop in at Culture Fusion.

The Through Care Team anticipate growing numbers of young people coming back for support post 21 in future years, estimated at around a third per age range, 20/30 young people at 21, 20/30 young people at 22 etc. We are also anticipating a resource implication as more young people enter further education later on. Post 22 young people entering further education do not get funding from education establishments, as Care Leavers they have a right to Council support for education purposes under the Leaving Care Act until they are 25.

The Through Care Service is currently reviewing how we can provide a 7 days a week service to its young people. Research being very clear that a 7 day a week service support educational outcomes, loneliness and ability to maintain tenancies. If this is achieved it is anticipated that the post 21 group of young people will benefit most as they are more likely to be in college/working during normal office hours.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There is a funding agreement for local authorities regarding the provision of care leaver services up to the age of 25.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE ISSUES

N/A

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

N/A

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

N/A

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

N/a

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

N/A

7.6 TRADE UNION

N/A

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

See report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

N/A

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

N/A

9. OPTIONS

N/A

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to note the content of this report and comment on the current Local Offer to Care Leavers.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - The Local Offer

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/youth-info/youth-info/>