

Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Corporate Parenting to be held on 18 January 2021

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Subject: Care Leaving Service

Summary statement:

Leaving Well Update – Pathway Plan Process for Care leavers

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1. SUMMARY

This report is to provide an update to the panel on developments in respect of the Leaving Well 'app' a pathway planning tool for care leavers.

Local authorities have duties under the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 towards care leavers.

Under Section 23 of the Leaving Care Act local authorities have duties to allocate a personal advisor and young people from 15 and $\frac{3}{4}$ must be provided with a pathway plan.

The pathway plan should consider the care leaver's need for support and assistance (which have already been identified in previous assessments) and how best to meet these needs until the age of 21 (or longer if the young person is in education or training or requests an extension of support).

The pathway plan is reviewed and updated every 6 months or when there is a significant change. The pathway plan is a collaborative document that is completed with the young person.

2. BACKGROUND

Brief Chronology of Bradford journey with Leaving Well.

Oct 18	Successful expression of interested submitted to the DofE and Social Finance be part of the Leaving well pilot.
Nov 18	Discovery Phase Commences
Feb 19	Leaving Well Implemented across Leaving Care Services
Jan 19 – Present	Continued Meetings with Social Finance and participating LA's to share Best Practice
Oct 20	Pilot ends
Nov 20	Linked in with Social Institute for Excellence to review the Pilot report to be completed and shared in Jan 21 'Looking Local' on board to further develop Leaving Well, who are IT soft wear specialists. Delivery of training to staff to improve quality of plans and Best Practice guidance written.
Dec 20	Ofsted assurance visit – positive comments received from Ofsted regarding pathway planning. Also commented that consistency around quality is needed across the service – this is known area of development.
Feb 21	Plans to complete audits on pathway plans to review quality and compliance

There are 595 young people open to the Care Leaving Services in Bradford, all young people require and pathway plan. Current performance regarding completion rate is 97.5%.

Training has recently been delivered to all staff regarding Best Practice when

completing pathway plans, expectations are that they are completed with young people and the Signs of Safety model is the preferred social work methodology. The planned audit of pathway plans will support improvements in quality.

Pathway Plans are no longer completed on Liquid Logic and young people are invited by their social worker or PA to complete the checklist section on the Leaving Well app, this is mostly done alongside their worker but young people do also complete this on their own. The checklist section of the pathway plan prompts discussions about the overall plan and from this agreed goals are determined and reviewed.

Leaving Well was created with young people and therefore is young person friendly and this is improving engagement and young people are taking ownership of their own plans. The collaboration between a young person and worker means both are accountable to ensure goals that are set are achieved.

Following the delivery of the most recent training means that the young person's voice is captured throughout the pathway plan, evidenced in bold and italic throughout the plan.

Working in partnership with other Local Authorities who use Leaving Well, we have also noted that following Ofsted visits that they have advised that pathway plans utilising current systems such as Liquid Logic do not capture the young person's voice and are not young person friendly. Leaving Well is a way to over come this barrier.

'Looking Local' are now on board to further drive forward Leaving Well, they have good links with SCIE and can further develop Leaving Well, again in collaboration with Local Authorities and young people.

Leaving Well also captures performance data using a management 'Dashboard' the Domains are as follows:

- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Relationships
- Activities
- Finance
- Identity
- Independence

This information proved invaluable recently when it was nationally recognised that Care Leavers were in digital poverty. Data from the Dashboard was used to target those young people affected.

We aim to further use this data to target other identified areas such as our NEET cohort.

- In the appendix there is an example of Leaving Well pathway plans
- Information from the Dashboard

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

What is working Well

Staff like the Leaving Well pathway plan.

The majority of young people are engaging and developing their own individual plans.

It remains a three-way process between young person, worker and team manager.

The checklist section of the plan is a quick and easy way to 'check in' with the young person

It can be used on phones, laptops, tablets.

Dashboard data can be utilised to target further areas of work.

Leaving Well is a live document.

Leaving Well continues to develop in collaboration with young people and Local Authorities

Local Authorities on board share best practice to improve quality and performance.

SCIE have completed an evaluation of the Pilot all are looking forward to this being shared.

Training has been delivered to all staff.

'Looking Local' are now on board to drive forward and have more technical knowledge

What needs to be considered

Continued engagement of involving young people developing their own plan and driving this forward as a service.

Young people to remain on board in further developing Leaving Well

The interface between Leaving Well and current systems and how this could be improved.

Outcomes of the SCIE evaluation

Consideration to roll out to a younger cohort of young people to improve their overall experience of collaborative care planning.

An on-going training and audit cycle to be in place to improve quality of pathway plans

Next Steps

To continue to provide training to workers

To involve Care Leaver Ambassadors with on-going development of the plans

Quality Assure of plans in January.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Bradford have been successful in engaging with the pilot the Leaving Well app and have a reduction in the purchase price of Leaving Well.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND 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 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

N/A

7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

See above

7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

N/A

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

N/A

9. OPTIONS

It is felt that on balance the quality of pathway plans has improved through the use of Leaving Well and improved young people's development of the plan.

At this moment we would want the authority to commit to investment going forward, which is currently being discussed and reviewed by our senior leadership team.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The views of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested.

11. APPENDICES

- An example of a Leaving Well pathway plans
- Overview of management Dashboard

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

N/A