

# **Report of the Assistant Director (Children's Specialist Services) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

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**Subject:**

**Update Report on the Single Point of Contact for the Leaving Care Statistics**

**Summary statement:**

**Update of the enquiry raised at the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015: It was noted:**

**'Members commented that:**

- **If a single point of contact had proved to be effective then it should be provided. There was a need to make the most effective use of the resources available'.**

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Gani Martins  
Interim Assistant Director  
(Children's Specialist Services)

**Portfolio:**  
**Children's Services**

Report Contact: Vaughan Chapman  
Phone: (01274) 436760  
E-mail: [Vaughan.chapman@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Vaughan.chapman@bradford.gov.uk)

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Children's Services**



## 1. SUMMARY

Following a presentation regarding the NEET/ETE opportunities for young people leaving care, an enquiry was raised at the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 relating to the loss of a single point of contact (for young people to access appropriate support) and it was noted:

‘Members commented that:

If a single point of contact had proved to be effective then it should be provided. There was a need to make the most effective use of the resources available’.

It was resolved –

That the Assistant Director, Children’s Specialist Services be asked to submit a further report to the Panel, in six months time, to update Members on any progress made in respect of the provision of a single point of contact for the Leaving Care Service for young people who are not in education, employment or training, to include any suggestions of how the Panel might support this provision.

This is an update report of the current situation.

## 2. BACKGROUND

A question was raised at the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 regarding the loss of a single point of contact for ETE support to Care Leavers following the demise of the Connexions Service and the consequent impact on one-to-one support to young people leaving care.

## 3. REPORT ISSUES

- 3.1 Since the last update (January 2015) there has been no input from the Youth Service or associated services in relation to progressing the single point of access agenda from "Connexions" / Youth Service (NEET – ‘not in education, employment or training’ - Tier 1) provision towards the Leaving Care Service.

“Prospects”, however, have offered a Connexions Advisor who has been assigned to LEAP (Leaving Care training service: *Learning-Employment-Advice-Preparation*) for one day per week. This move has allowed very clear partnership working and a co-ordinated and consistent approach in assertively engaging the vulnerable NEET cohort.

Current statistical concerns, in relation to how NEET Tier 1 / Youth Workers engage vulnerable groups, continues to appear to be evident;

3.2 Below is sample information over the last 12 months, of 5 care leavers, which details;

a) The number of different PAs (Personal Advisers) a care leaver had over a 12 month period and the number of face to face interactions a care leaver had over a 12 month period,

**From February 2015 to February 2016**

Care Leaver	No of different PAs	Face to face interventions
1	3	3
2	8	6
3	5	3
4	6	1
5	6	5

The care leavers taken in this brief sample are NEET Tier 1 care leavers. There is a clear need for consistency and it would appear to be inappropriate for any vulnerable young person, falling under NEET Tier 1 support, to have several PAs approach them and for a care leaver to need to speak with a number of different PAs. In addition there is also a clear concern that over a 12 month period, there appears to be very little face to face engagement with this cohort of care leavers and instead letters / text messages and phone calls appear to be the primary mode of engagement, which is inappropriate to the needs of this cohort of (often) isolated, vulnerable and anxious young people.

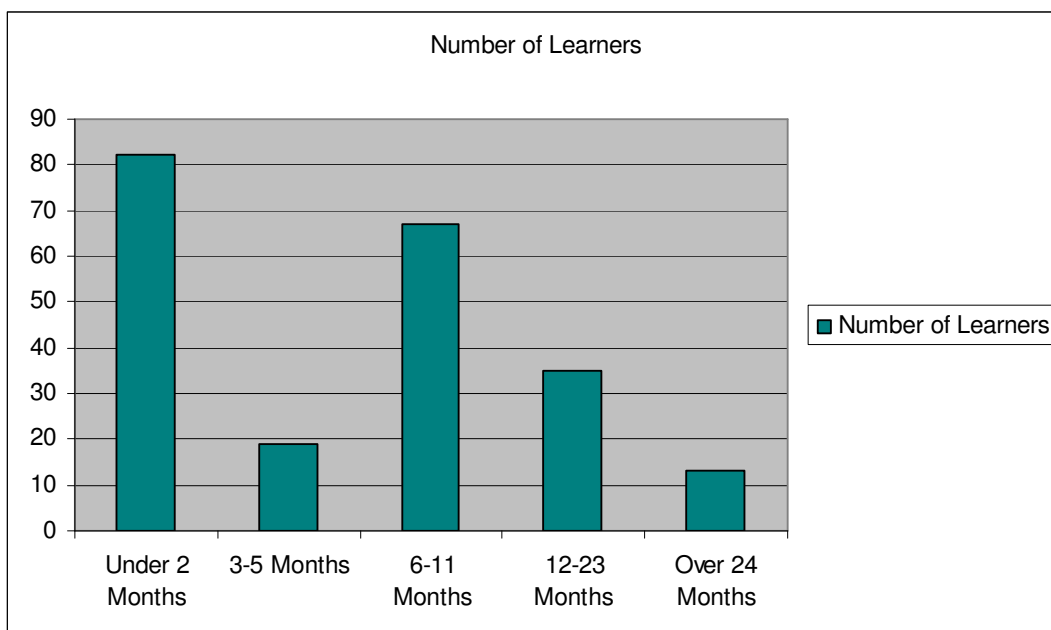
The Ofsted report "Reducing the Numbers of Young People not in Education, Employment and Training: What Works and Why (March 2010)" identified the following point;

*"The Connexions Service was particularly effective on local authority areas where personal advisors had a single specialist focus to their work. This enabled them to concentrate on specific potentially vulnerable groups, such as care leavers...."*

b) The time care leavers were NEET before coming to LEAP provision.

**August 2008 to April 2015 – Time NEET prior to coming to LEAP**

Time NEET	Number of Learners
Under 2 Months	82
3-5 Months	19
6-11 Months	67
12-23 Months	35
Over 24 Months	13



3.3 These figures indicate further the need to have a single point of contact in order to co-ordinate and manage NEET Tier 1 interventions to stop any young person being NEET for any significant length of time and to support them into the most appropriate ETE (Employment, Education or Training) opportunities.

3.4 It has not proved possible to fully integrate all services to provide a single point of contact, for young people leaving care, up to the current time.

#### 4. **OPTIONS**

No options are given in this report.

#### 5. **CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

5.1 The report relates to the Corporate Parenting responsibilities to young people leaving care and the support of those young people to best achieve positive outcomes.

5.2 The service contributes to two Council priorities, raising educational achievement and supporting vulnerable children.

#### 6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to receive, consider and note the contents of the report.

#### 7. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Reference the Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on Wednesday 14 January 2015 in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Bradford

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

**9. APPENDICES**

None.