

**Notice of a public meeting of
Corporate Parenting Board**

- To:** Councillors Looker (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair), Brooks, Cuthbertson, Funnell, Potter, Scott and Wiseman
- Date:** Monday, 2 December 2013
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2013.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Board's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is 5pm the working day before the meeting, in this case **5pm on Friday 29 November 2013.**

- 4. Education of Looked After Children** (Pages 9 - 20)
The Head Teacher for the virtual school of looked after children has reviewed the education outcomes for children from Early Years, through key stages 1 to 4 and into education, training and employment. This progress report will inform members about key actions being considered to support the educational attainment for all looked after children
- 5. Moving into Adulthood for Care Leavers** (Pages 21 - 30)
A key strand of the Looked After Children's strategy relates directly to the experience of care leavers, as they move into adulthood. This progress report will inform the Board about the action plan to ensure that care leavers continue to receive advice, guidance and support after they leave the care of the council.
- 6. Work Plan** (Pages 31 - 32)
Members are asked to consider the Board's workplan for the 2013-14 municipal year.
- 7. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officers

Name: Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job-share)

Telephone: (01904) 551031

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook Democracy Officers

- Registering to speak
- Written Representations
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

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- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Corporate Parenting Board
Date	3 October 2013
Present	Councillors Looker (Chair), Brooks, Scott and Wiseman
Apologies	Councillors Runciman, Cuthbertson, Funnell and Potter

7. Declarations Of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in relation to the business on the agenda or other general interests they might have within the remit of the Board. None were declared.

8. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 4 July 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

9. Public Participation

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

10. The Health Of Looked After Children

Members considered a report that provided an update on promoting the health and well-being of Looked After Children.

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children was in attendance to give details of the progress that was being made and to answer Members' questions.

Discussion took place around issues in respect of the Initial Health Assessments. It was noted that the expected standard was for all children and young people to be seen within 20 working days of becoming Looked After. However, although there was a timely completion of Initial Health Assessments once a referral for the assessment had been made by the Social Worker, there were significant delays in referral and poor coverage. In order to address this issue, a meeting was planned with Service Managers and measures were being put in place to make social workers more aware of the situation.

Members were informed that the Show Me that I Matter Panel had demonstrated a good understanding of the need for and purpose of Initial Health Assessments. They had expressed concern that the Review Health Assessments were only available to children and young people in mainstream (LA provided) education. This was an issue that was looking to be addressed. The Show Me that I Matter Panel had also stated that there should be a choice as to where the assessments took place to ensure that there could be discretion in the arrangements.

Members were pleased to note that a dental audit had determined that the majority of Looked After Children (86%) had seen a dentist within the previous six months, and only one young person had experienced toothache within that period.

Members were updated on the discussions that were taking place regarding the LAC Specialist Nursing Team having limited access to the Children's Social Care Integrated Children's System. This would better enable the sharing of information, including dates of immunisation.

- Resolved:
- (i) That the progress that has been made in relation to plans to meet the health needs of Looked After children and young people be noted.
 - (ii) That an update report be presented to the Board in summer 2014.

Reason: To ensure that all those involved with children and young people are collaborating to consolidate the arrangements for children's health provision and to improve this in accordance with the strategy.

11. Care Leavers Charter

Members gave consideration to a report which presented the draft Care Leavers Charter. *[An amended version of the charter (Annex A) was tabled and is attached to the on-line agenda papers for this meeting]*. The Board was asked to agree to the endorsement of the Charter by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Children's Services. Details were given of the consultation that had taken place with young people and care leavers in York.

Members put forward the following suggestions:

- 3rd bullet point – replace the word “negotiate” with “reach”
- 9th bullet point – to provide clarity the wording to read “To provide you with a named Pathway worker to age 21 (or 25 if in education)”
- 11th bullet point – replace the words “care leavers” with “you”

Discussion took place as to how realistic it was for advice and information to be provided whatever the care leavers age. Officers confirmed that that every effort was made to ensure that care leavers were aware of the sources of advice and support that were available from relevant agencies. There was evidence that some care users did seek this support.

Members stated that they were very impressed by the charter and agreed that it was very accessible. It was noted that it was the intention to also produce the charter in a poster or leaflet format.

Resolved: That it be agreed that the Care Leavers Charter be endorsed by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Children's Services.

Reason: This is in accordance with the Council's commitment to achieve positive outcomes for care leavers in line with its corporate responsibilities outlined in the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15.

12. **Work Plan**

Consideration was given to the Board's workplan for the 2013-14 municipal year.

Members put forward the following suggestions:

- "Moving into Adulthood" to be an agenda item for the next meeting
- A briefing note to be provided to the Board on lessons that could be learned from the Daniel Pelka case in Coventry.
- The meeting scheduled for March 2014 to be held at Hamilton House.

It was noted that a number of Board members were unable to attend forthcoming scheduled meetings. It was suggested that the date of the next meeting be provisionally rearranged to Monday 2 December 2013 (subject to the agreement of the Board members who were not present) and that further efforts be made to reschedule other Board meetings planned for the municipal year.

Resolved: That, subject to the amendments detailed above, the workplan be approved.

Reason: To ensure that the Board has a planned programme of work in place.

13. **Update from Head Of Service Children's Social Care**

Officers gave a verbal update on the following issues:

(i) Numbers of Looked After Children

A paper entitled "Keeping Families Together – Safely Reducing our Looked After Population in York" had been considered by the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2013. The paper analysed trends in York's looked after children population. It was agreed that copies of the report would be circulated to those members of the Corporate Parenting Board who were not also members of the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(ii) Ofsted Judgement on Out of City Placement

The Local Authority had been notified by Ofsted that the provision in place at a centre at which a young person from York was currently on a residential placement, was inadequate.

Officers explained that, because of the age of the young person, the fact that he was making good progress and the action plan that had been put in place to address the issues identified by Ofsted, it was not proposed to move the boy at this stage. The situation was, however, being very closely monitored and a social worker was making regular visits to meet with him.

An update would be provided at the next meeting by which time the Ofsted report on the centre would have been published.

(iii) Regional Forum

Details were given of a regional forum that was to be held in Leeds and to which members of the Show Me That I Matter Panel had been invited to attend. Feedback on the event would be provided at the next meeting.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Reason: In order that Board Members are kept updated on ongoing issues.

Councillor Looker, Chair
[the meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.45 pm].

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Corporate Parenting Board**2 December 2013**

Report of the Assistant Director, Adults, Children and Education

Education of Looked After Children**Summary**

1. The focus in this report is upon progress in relation to the education of looked after children. This is a major strand of the Looked After Children's Strategy for 2012-15

Background

2. Each local authority is required to appoint a senior teacher to act as a Head Teacher of the virtual school of looked after children. The Head Teacher of the virtual school works to support the education of looked after children and care leavers in their various settings. The role of head teacher of the virtual school is undertaken by Tricia Head, Head Teacher of Danesgate. A progress report about the attainment of looked after children is submitted for consideration (appendix A).

Consultation

3. The Head Teacher of the virtual school works in collaboration with all the designated teachers for looked after children in York schools and in other local authorities, for those placed out of the city. The work of each of the officers reporting to the board is undertaken with consultation with service users e.g. looked after children and care leavers foster carers, adopters, Feedback from Show Me That I Matter and I Matter Too (representatives of all looked after children) York Area Foster Carers Association, is regularly sought and incorporated into the service development.

Options

4. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to progress information sharing with the Board about the experience of looked after children.

Analysis

5. Not applicable

Council Plan

6. The Corporate Parenting Board will be ensuring that the work of partners for looked after children contributes to the aims of
 - The Children and Young People's Plan
 - Building strong communities
 - Protecting vulnerable people

Through the positive outcomes for looked after children, the aim is for them to be able to benefit from and contribute to

- Get York moving
- Create jobs and grow the economy
- Protect the environment

Implications

- **Financial:** Not applicable
- **Human Resources:** Not applicable
- **Equalities:** Not applicable
- **Legal:** Not applicable
- **Crime and Disorder:** Not applicable
- **Information Technology:** Not applicable
- **Property:** Not applicable
- **Other:** Not applicable

Risk Management

- 8. Not applicable

Recommendations

- 9. It is recommended that the Board notes the progress report from the Head Teacher of the virtual school.

Reasons

- 10. To ensure that all those involved with children and young people are collaborating to consolidate the arrangements for children's education and to improve in accordance with the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15..

Contact Details

Author:

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Tel No. 555357

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Eoin Rush, Assistant Director
Tel no 554212

Report
Approved

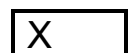


Date 21-11-13

Specialist Implications Officer(s): Not applicable

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex:

Annex A - Education of Looked After Children Progress Report

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Virtual School Report – December 2013

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
<p>York's Virtual School Improvement plan section:</p> <p>ACHIEVEMENT</p> <p>LAC Strategy says:</p> <p><i>Raise the attainment of Looked After Children and Young People, and support this by ensuring that all PEPs are completed in a timely manner and by auditing the quality of PEPs</i></p>	<p>Virtual school management team now fit for purpose with appropriate working membership, administration support, school improvement plan, and achievement data calendar.</p> <p>School improvement plan has dedicated Achievement section (see attached).</p> <p>Closer working with MIS has begun and system to allow for improved tracking is being designed and will be live in time for first tracking data review at end Jan 2014.</p> <p>First analysis of attainment data led was patchy, by July 2013 data analysis and interventions needed in school is much clearer.</p>	<p>Embedding achievement data cycle and processes.</p> <p>Bespoke data system needed – MIS system can feed into this but too unwieldy for virtual school use at present. Academic data admin time needed. Funding for this unclear and not forthcoming at present time.</p> <p>Out of area still hard to reach – more time for VSH and specialist LAC teacher needed to fully bottom this issue but some efficiency work by EPs will hep to improve this also.</p>

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
	<p>Specialist LAC teacher's role clarified and work focused on better referrals and interventions.</p> <p>Delivery of pupil premium in York clarified. (see paper attached).</p> <p>PEPs have been re-designed - joint work between LAC EP and VSH. These have been recirculated to all HTs and impact is already showing improved return rate. Currently PEP completion rate is 80%. Network with VSHs from across Yorkshire and Humber region has</p>	<p>VSH would like to line manage LAC specialist teacher and have her based local to VSH. VSH could then design interventions alongside LAC teacher that would enhance work in schools.</p> <p>Need to explain this further to SWs and discuss how monitoring/delivery of PP plus money should happen. Currently £900 per pupil but delivered termly. Could be up to £1900 by 2014/15 but this has not been confirmed as yet.</p> <p>More publicity and awareness raising about PEPs needed (school visits in Autumn term 2013 have helped here). VSH to have chance to meet with SMs and SWs to explain system and need for improved communication.</p>

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
	shown similar issues in other areas.	
<p>York's Virtual School Improvement plan sections:</p> <p>PARTNERSHIPS PROGRESSION</p> <p>LAC strategy says:</p> <p><i>Build on the research into children and young people's experience of the PEP process by working with reviewing officers, schools and carers in a multi-agency group to improve the process and make it more meaningful for children and young people and their carers</i></p>	<p>VSH has attended SMTIM and answered questions which were surprisingly basic showing that pupils are unclear about who does what in terms of their academic life.</p> <p>VSH has invited Children's Rights advocate to be on School Management Team.</p> <p>VSH has meet with IROs, SWs for Foster carers and Foster carer groups to improve understanding of gaps in knowledge and emerging needs.</p>	<p>VSH has drafted pupil friendly feedback leaflets – need to discuss how these could be used in schools.</p> <p>VS web site needs to be reviewed and improved.</p>
York's Virtual School Improvement	VSH has met with Pathways team.	Overlap between PSI, Pathways

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
<p>plan sections:</p> <p>ACHIEVEMENT PROGRESSION</p> <p>LAC Strategy says:</p> <p><i>Introduce a post-16 PEP, which will ensure that the education and training needs of young people are fully met</i></p>	<p>Discussion re importance of English and Maths achievement.</p> <p>Plan designed to develop summer school for LAC for end June, early July to allow for useful bridge to post 16 programmes.</p> <p>Request for dedicated Connexions adviser for LAC has been raised.</p>	<p>and other Connexions workers needs clarification as we could all work smarter here.</p> <p>This needs to be given some priority time and staffing resource but capacity issues for VSH and rest of team.</p> <p>VSH advises that this would be better done as a commissioned role along the lines of other commissioned IYSS workers – this would ensure effective management of this post in terms of LAC needs and essential reporting to VSH.</p>
<p>York's Virtual School Improvement Plan section:</p> <p>ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRESSION</p>	<p>VSH now has higher profile with regards to this. HTs all know who VSH is and Education Access team contact VSH with any admissions/transport request.</p> <p>VSH has requested change form is</p>	<p>As work force changes this communication still needs to be embedded (this to be done through meetings with SMs and SWs).</p> <p>This to be finalised but in hand.</p>

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
<p>LAC strategy says:</p> <p><i>Embed the Moving School Protocols so that the head of the virtual school is involved in securing the most appropriate education for the child/young person. Ensure there is consultation with all parties, including the child/young person, and that any move is endorsed by a review</i></p>	<p>redesigned to allow for education element.</p> <p>Yorkshire and Humber VSHs have a protocol for sharing information.</p> <p>Admin support for correcting database is essential. VSH has met with some of data management team and has requested a further meeting so that this information resource can be improved further.</p>	<p>This needs to be recirculated to all service managers at CYC.</p> <p>Funding for this is a modest but essential requirement and still not in place.</p>
<p>York's Virtual school improvement plan sections:</p> <p>ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>LAC strategy says:</p>	<p>EYFS lead is on VS Senior Management Team (please see school improvement plan for additional information)</p> <p>The Foster Carers group at the Avenues has done a good piece of work registering all the carers and</p>	<p>Training with foster carers to be reviewed via Virtual School management team..</p>

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
<i>Create a coherent strategy to meet the educational and developmental needs of children aged 0-5 through high quality provision, and ensure their successful transfer to full time education, and the virtual school, at age 5</i>	also organised training on child development etc through the WDU. There is also a small scale link with Family Learning and the language development course that Jo Greaves (Senior Specialist Speech and Language Therapist) is running. One of the Early Learning Leaders led a session on story sacks also.	
<p>York's Virtual school improvement plan sections:</p> <p>ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>LAC strategy says:</p> <p><i>Provide specific training for designated teachers to enable them to respond to the needs</i></p>	Low up take of training so we rethought this relationship. School visits were put in for Autumn term – these have been very successful.	<p>Stick with this model:</p> <p>Autumn term – visits with pro forma Spring term – training Summer term – training</p> <p>Dependent upon EP and LAC tutor time and VSH capacity.</p>

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
<i>of children who are looked after, including the effects of trauma and attachment difficulties</i>		
<p>York's virtual school improvement plan sections:</p> <p>PROGRESSION</p> <p>LAC strategy says:</p> <p><i>Encourage young people and care leavers to take advantage of the Northern England Care Leaver Activities and Student Support (North CLASS) to access support to higher education</i></p>	<p>I have not found anyone who is allocated to work on CLASS or knows about it.</p>	<p>The need for a designated Connexions advisor commissioned by the Virtual School and managed by VSH is relevant here.</p>
<p>York's virtual school improvement plan section:</p> <p>PROGRESSION</p>	<p>Link with Guardian newspaper to set up training for selection of LAC pupils. This is booked in for next academic year.</p>	<p>It is hoped we can do an on line news bulletin or paper version for easy distribution.</p>

York LAC Strategy 2012-2015	Sept 2012 – October 2103 What we have achieved in one year	October 2013 onwards Areas for further improvement
<p>LAC strategy says:</p> <p><i>Consistently support and celebrate the educational and personal success of our children and young people.</i></p>		



Corporate Parenting Board**2 December 2013**

Report of the Assistant Director, Adults, Children and Education

Moving into Adulthood for Care Leavers**Summary**

1. The focus in this report is upon progress in relation to care leavers and the Moving into Adulthood strand of the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15

Background

2. The Corporate Parenting has endorsed the local Care Leavers Charter in October 2013. Services for care leavers are critical to the young people's movement into suitable and secure accommodation, in which the young people are able to progress in education, training and employment. There has been significant progress in the coordination and collaboration between the Pathway Team, which takes a lead in work with care leavers and all of the other council staff, who can promote and support a positive pathway into adulthood.

Consultation

3. The work of each of the officers reporting to the board is undertaken with consultation with service users e.g. looked after children and care leavers foster carers, adopters,. Feedback from Show Me That I Matter and I Matter Too (representatives of all looked after children) York Area Foster Carers Association, is regularly sought and incorporated into the service development.

Options

4. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to progress information sharing with the Board about the experience of looked after children.

Analysis

5. The Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15 outlined the expectations for York's care leavers. A progress report into the key aspects is included at appendix A.

Council Plan

6. The Corporate Parenting Board will be ensuring that the work of partners for looked after children contributes to the aims of
 - The Children and Young People's Plan
 - Building strong communities
 - Protecting vulnerable people

Through the positive outcomes for looked after children , the aim is for them to be able to benefit from and contribute to

- Get York moving
- Create jobs and grow the economy
- Protect the environment

7. Implications

- **Financial:** Not applicable
- **Human Resources:** Not applicable
- **Equalities:** Not applicable
- **Legal:** Not applicable
- **Crime and Disorder:** Not applicable
- **Information Technology:** Not applicable
- **Property:** Not applicable
- **Other:** Not applicable

Risk Management

- 8. Not applicable

Recommendations

- 9. It is recommended that the Board notes the progress report relating to care leavers moving into adulthood.

Reasons

- 10. To ensure that all those involved with children and young people are collaborating to consolidate the arrangements for care leavers and to improve in accordance with the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15.

Contact Details

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ACE Tel No. 555357

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Eoin Rush, Assistant Director
Tel no 554212

**Report
Approved**

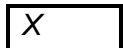


Date 21-11-13

Specialist Implications Officer(s):Not applicable

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

Annex A - Progress into Moving into Adulthood for care leavers

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Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15

Moving into Adulthood for Care Leavers Progress

Objective 1

Create more supported accommodation options, including some which can take young people with complex needs, including in emergencies.

1.1 Taster Flat

The Accommodation Officer oversees the Taster Flat, with a series of four week opportunities for a range of young people over each year. Following the experience young people return to their foster or residential placement. An assessment of their time in the flat is then completed. This assessment informs of skills to develop and future accommodation options.

1.2 Trainer Flats

When young people are ready to consider independent accommodation the accommodation officer supports them in their consideration of moving into a 6 month council trainer flat. If this progresses well, the trainer flat can progress to be a full tenancy.

1.3 Supported accommodation in SASH, Scarcroft Road and Southlands Road

The accommodation officer maintains strong links with the providers of each of these moves onto semi independent settings to ensure that care leavers can be considered alongside other young people requiring accommodation

1.4 Specialist landlords

Occasionally the accommodation officer will liaise with specialist settings, when a young person has complex needs which may require additional support in or outside of York.

1.5 Skipbridge Farm

A link with a local provider of “moving on” cottages located on the A59 has been established. The accommodation officer maintains the link with the provider and this has facilitated several placements which otherwise would have required a place at Howe Hill Hostel (or Peasholme or Arclight)

1.6 Housing Services

The accommodation officer has a key link with housing services in relation to care leavers, who present as homeless unexpectedly (e.g. having lived out of area and then deciding to return to York; living with extended family and then being asked to leave: breakdown of accommodation with a partner; domestic violence etc) This designated link focuses upon the need for immediate accommodation for a care leaver and exploration of placement at Howe Hill, Peasholme or Arclight

Objective 2

Ensure the sustainability of the Staying Put scheme by recruiting enough foster carers to replace those whose young people stay put.

2.1 Staying Put has progressed well, numbers continue to rise. Depending on foster carers room capacity it may take up beds that could be used for foster placements. Recruitment is ongoing with the family placement team.

Objective 3

Develop a more consistent approach to preparing young people for independent living by creating a programme that builds up their skills and can be used in a variety of settings. Adopt a more structured approach to the identification of young people’s skills and learning needs when they are moving to independent living, and include this in the planning process.

3.1 The Pathway practice manager and the teenage foster carers support group have developed a document to enable foster carers to record a young person's skills, progress and identifying areas for further development. The document has been sent out for consultation by foster carers. It is expected that the document will be discussed at looked after young people's reviews. Foster carers will take the lead role in supporting young people to gain independence skills and prepare for independent living.

3.2 This assessment document serves as both a gauge of the skills a young person has reached and identifies areas that need to be developed. The information will feed into the young person's pathway plan. This then allows the opportunity to bring in support from other teams or agencies if required and prevents the young person leaving care without the level of skills they need. Consistency will be achieved by all foster carers using the document. The pathway accommodation officer will liaise with the social worker, fostering placement worker, independent reviewing officer and foster carers to co-ordinate the process. .

Objective 4

Use the new provision at Howe Hill to build on and develop existing links with colleagues in housing, education and the voluntary sector, to increase the education, training and employment options available to care leavers.

4.1 Howe Hill is a tier 1 accommodation provision. Howe Hill is staffed 24 hours a day. Young people are offered breakfast and evening meals. Partnership work with Howe Hill and the Pathway team is developing to meet the needs of care leavers. We are continuing to consult with housing colleagues and Howe Hill staff about moving young people on from Howe Hill to tier 2 provisions.

4.2 The Youth Education Workers offer a daily programme including education, housing management, independence & life skills. This is supported by the Pathway ETE officer and springboard worker. The

opportunity to gain independence skills has been extended to young people preparing to move on from foster care.

Objective 5

Further develop the opportunities for care leavers to access training and employment within the council, e.g. “employment with training”, and ensure that HR processes are supporting the access of care leavers to jobs and apprenticeships.

5.1 The education, training and employment officer in the Pathway Team ensures that all training and employment opportunities for care leavers are identified and promoted to the young people. There have been several instances in which the prompt identification of opportunities within both council and other businesses, apprenticeships, employment with training and other employment have been achieved for care leavers.

Objective 6

Clarify the process by which over 21s can access Pathway support when eligible.

6.1 A post 21 support protocol relating to further and higher education is now in place. This affords a clear referral process with a step by step guide. There is an assessment document to enable the pathway worker to ensure that young people, who wish to resume or commence further or higher education after their 21st birthday are afforded this opportunity. The pathway team is presently supporting 2 young people at York College who would otherwise not be able to attend. In addition there are 2 young people, who are completing their university education after their 21st birthday, with council support.

6.2 It is hoped that the number of young people, who will continue to revisit further or higher education, after their 21st birthday, will continue to increase. It is noted that many care leavers do not feel ready to consider these opportunities in the years between 16 and 21, therefore the support is offered to enhance their potential at a later stage.

Objective 7

Put in place better arrangements for the provision of health care to young people and care leavers who are no longer at school, and offer them choices in how they access health care and information.

7.1 All young people are encouraged to be registered with a GP, dentist & optician. All young people are given information regarding how and where they can access sexual health advice and support. All young people are given information regarding how and where they can access health care for drug or alcohol issues. It has been noted by health commissioners that there is a gap in the provision health assessment support to young people aged 16 to 18 , who progress into non-school education settings (cf York College etc) This matter is being considered in any new commissioning considerations.

Objective 8

Ensure there is easy access to mental health and counselling services for care leavers and young adults up to the age of 25.

8.1 Castlegate is the main point of contact for young people to access counselling services. Kate Gibbon provides a drop in fortnightly at Howe Hill for young people.

8.2 Some young people do access such services via their GP or health visitor. Young people may have established a link with a Child and Adolescent health service practitioner prior to their 18th birthday. In some instances, this contact has continued while future links are made with services for young adulthood. Provision for the emotional well being of care leavers 18-25 remains an area for greater consideration, with the pathway support workers providing a link where possible into existing services.

Objective 9

The Pathway Team will put in place a system of exit interviews for care leavers approaching 21 years, and use this information to improve the service.

9.1 This process is in place, much of the feedback is very positive. The support young people have received from Pathway is recognised and appreciated.

9.2 Young people have had the opportunity to comment and influence the service they receive. The feedback also gives the Pathway staff the opportunity to be aware just how much their support is valued by young people.

9.3 Feedback has included young people's wishes for even more training and employment opportunities within the council.

9.4 The young people have commented that they are pleased that the council and elected members take their role as corporate parent seriously.

Objective 10

Jointly with other agencies, create more accessible social, leisure, sport and cultural opportunities for care leavers, to equip them to enjoy living independently.

10.1 The high cost of living means many care leavers live in difficult financial circumstances and cannot enjoy the City's wealth of resources, cultural and social opportunities. Although all care leavers are offered free membership at 'Energise' Gym they don't want to go on their own or maybe live the other side of York so getting there is difficult.

10.2 The Pathway Team run social events, cinema, bowling, summer trip, meals out, Christmas dinner at the Mansion House.

David Purcell, Practice Manager, Pathway Team

19 November 2013

Corporate Parenting Board – Work Programme for 2013-14

Meeting Date	Work Programme
4 July 2013	Good and Safe Placements for Looked After Children - A progress report on Fostering and Adoption Activity and Outcomes in York Children in Out of Authority Residential Care - Quality and Surveillance
3 October 2013	The Health of Looked After Children Care Leavers Charter
2 Dec 2013	Moving into Adulthood for Care Leavers Education of Looked After Children
5 March 2014 (please note rescheduled date)	Respect and Involvement, including a report from the Children's Rights Officer Maintaining and promoting important relationships for looked after children The emotional well being of looked after children (slot in dependent on when it comes through scrutiny)
7 May 2014 (please note rescheduled date)	Respect and involvement including the annual report of the independent reviewing officer service Promoting a positive sense of identity for all children. <i>[Meeting to be held at Hamilton House]</i>

Other issues to be timetabled into work programme (requested by Members/suggested by officers during meetings)

- Update from Service Manager and the elected Member with responsibility for visiting children's homes.
- Feedback from the Glen in the wider context of short breaks.
- A briefing note to be provided to the Board on lessons that could be learned from the Daniel Pelka case in Coventry.
- Profile of Looked after Children in the City – twice yearly update requested.
- Update on Strategic Partnership Arrangements

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