



Pathway Team and Service for Care Leavers

Corporate Parenting Board Update Nov 2107

The Pathway Team works with identified young people previously looked after by the Local Authority, City of York Council. Currently the Pathway Team is working with 93 young people.

This update for Corporate Parenting Board is to provide information about some of the main areas of the work: Accommodation; ETE; Health; Young People's Voice and future work.

Accommodation:

Staying Put is well established and embedded as the first consideration by social workers when planning for future accommodation for children post care. Currently 13 care leavers are Staying Put with their foster carers.

The Pathway team offer a taster flat and trainer flat experience prior to a move to independence. We are currently supporting 3 young people in this way. When assessed as ready to live independently care leavers are awarded gold band for City of York Council housing. Currently 29 care leavers are living independently in City of York housing or private rented accommodation.

In addition to Staying Put and independent options the Pathway Team and Housing colleagues have developed a range of accommodation options for our young people. This includes SASH and supported lodgings; Howe Hill for young people, Robinson court and Scarcroft Road.

City of York Council, in partnership with NYCC has commissioned bespoke accommodation from SASH for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and refugees.

Moving forward there is a need to consider alternative accommodation provision for a small cohort of young people with complex needs who cannot manage successfully in the established accommodation.

Education, training & employment

We currently have 17 care leavers not in Education, Training or Employment which equates to 17% of our care leaver population. Of these 17, only 5 are eligible to work, other being Mums or unwell giving an actual NEET figure just over 5 %. This is significantly better than the national average of 49%.

We also have a number of other real successes to celebrate: 2 young people recently achieved their PD degrees and are now employed. A further 8 continue in Higher Education. There are currently 6 apprenticeships with 1 care leaver working within CYC and another employed by a CYC contractor.

Due to its size City of York Council is able to support apprenticeships on case by case bases. Our children in care and care leavers, upon assessment of being ready, are guaranteed an interview. In such circumstances the Pathway Team will support with interview skills, appropriate clothing and travel to the interview.

Moving forward we are developing a menu of opportunities with York Cares and CYC. There is also a focus on development of opportunities for young mums, to explore their aspirations and prepare for future ETE including CV's.

Health

Roll out of Health passport has not yet been achieved however as an interim measure all care leavers have been written too regarding how to access their health records.

Young people are supported to access community health resources via their GP. There is no bespoke mental health resource for care leavers within the Pathway team. Moving forward this is being explored as part of the Emotional and Mental Health Strategic Partnership alongside the

challenge for care leavers in remaining registered with a dentist if they miss appointments.

Voice of care leavers

The last 12 months has seen the strong emergence of a City of York care leaver consultation group 'I Still Matter' (ISM). The group has attended National events and presented their work in that context and within City of York. The Group has become an important support network amongst its peers and they are in the process of releasing a news letter.

Moving forward the Group will focus on the City of York's Care Leaver Charter and Care Leaver Offer in the next few months.

Future work

The City of York, like all other Local Authorities across the country, will have to produce a local care leaver offer by April 1st 2018 which sets out the statutory entitlements that a local authority must provide, as well as examples of the additional help that a local authority *may* choose to provide to its care leavers. Our local offer will be formulated in consultation with care leavers and will extend the offer of Pathway services from 21 to 25.

Children and Social Work Act 2017 also confers a new duty on Local Authorities to require them to have regard to seven 'corporate parenting principles', that will guide the way in which the Local Authority provides its services to children in care and care leavers.

This work will be undertaken over the next months with implementation April 2018. There will be opportunity for further discussion in a future Corporate Parenting Board session.