

**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 9th July 2019  
**Title of report:** Care Leavers – Local Offer Keep on Caring

**Purpose of report.**

To ensure that members of the Corporate Parenting Board are informed of the development of the Kirklees Local Offer and extending Personal Advisor support to care leavers to the age of 25.

To ask members of the Corporate Parenting Board to comment on the action plan in relation to these developments.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	N/A (not a commissioning proposal)
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a></b>	No
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	Yes
<b>Date signed off by <a href="#">Service Director</a> &amp; name</b>	Yes - Elaine McShane (27/6/18)
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?</b>	N/A
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?</b>	N/A
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cllr Viv Kendrick

**Electoral wards affected:** N/A

**Ward councillors consulted:** N/A

**Public or private:** Public

## 1. Background

### The local offer

Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers. The local offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers from the local authority and partner agencies including information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide.

Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires local authorities to have regard to seven corporate parenting principles when discharging their functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers. The local offer should set out what support all local authority departments will provide (not just Children's Services), having regard to the corporate parenting principles

### Details of the services and support that should be included

The local offer should include details of the services and support that may assist care leavers in, or moving to, adulthood and independent living that the local authority provides in relation to:

- **Health and wellbeing:** This will include services that teach about, support and enable good health and wellbeing. It should include links to, or information about, universal health services that might be particularly relevant to care leavers, as well as specific health and wellbeing services targeted at them.
- **Relationships:** having strong and supportive relationships is crucially important for care leavers as they move to independent adult life. Local authorities will want to consider the services and/ or support that is available to help care leavers develop and maintain positive social networks and to understand what positive relationships look like.
- **Education and training:** Care leavers should be supported to access appropriate education or training that will enable them to fulfil their goals. This will include the statutory support available to care leavers, such as the £2,000 bursary for care leavers in Higher Education, as well as any other support from the local authority; and signpost to universal information such as careers advice and financial support for young people.
- **Employment:** this will include information to care leavers about general employment support, such as careers support and links to local Job Centre Plus. Local authorities should also include any other employment support that they or partners deliver that is specifically available to care leavers, for example, any apprenticeships that the local authority offers, in particular where such opportunities are ring-fenced for care leavers.
- **Accommodation:** care leavers should be supported to access appropriate and suitable accommodation. The local authority should include relevant information about their Staying Put policy, the support available from Housing Services and any other assistance that is available to care leavers, such as advice on maintaining a tenancy.
- **Participation in society:** this will include links to and information about activities, events or volunteering opportunities available in the local area that care leavers can get involved in.

**Local offer guidance, Guidance for local authorities  
February 2018 (Appendix 1).**

## 2. Summary

In October 2017 no 11 was opened as a drop in centre for Children in Care and Care Leavers to access support from a variety of professionals. There are currently a number of services available from a number of partner agencies including housing, health, education, employment and training and local services providing support with drugs and alcohol misuse. It has been identified that there are a number of services available however there is further need for development in relation to providing a more effective service for our Young People.

As a service we have a steering group in place where we have been reviewing our service provision whilst developing our Local Offer. During this process we have considered what we already have in place along with what we are doing well and with this information we have been able to identify the areas for improvement. Due to some enquires made by Care Leavers over the age of 21 and. as part of the process we have also identified the need for further consultation and development in extending Personal Advisor to all care leavers age to 25.

In order to progress these developments we currently have an action plan in place please refer to Action Plan Appendix 2.

**3. Consultations.**

In July 2018 members of the steering group will attend the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum in order to discuss the draft proposed Local Offer and to seek their views as part of the consultation process.

In July 2018 a meeting will be held to include partner agencies who are currently involved with service provision for our Young People along with other partner agencies who have shown a keen interest and made enquires in relation to providing support to meet the gaps in service provision. At a result of these consultations the Local Offer will be reviewed.

**4. Next steps**

To continue to develop the draft action plan in line with the comments from the Corporate Parenting Board members and further consultations.

**5. Contact officers**

Steve Comb (Head of Corporate Parenting)  
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01484 221000

**6. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

N/A

**7. Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)