

Name of meeting: Cabinet  
 Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015

Title of report: Kirklees Cares – Transformation Challenge Award project

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>Yes</b>  This is a two year programme funded by a grant of £400k from the Transformation Challenge Award to develop a peer mentoring service and other support for care leavers. Long-term the approach is expected to produce savings to the LA and other public agencies.
Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan</a> ?	<b>No</b>
Is it eligible for "call in" by <a href="#">Scrutiny</a> ?	<b>Yes</b>
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Alison O'Sullivan – 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	David Smith – 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2015
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance & Monitoring?	Julie Muscroft – 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2015
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	<b>Children &amp; Young People</b>

Electoral [wards](#) affected: ALL  
 Ward councillors consulted:

Public or private: Public

## 1. Purpose of report

This report describes the 'Kirklees Cares' project, which will help some of the most vulnerable young people in the district by using a new approach to supporting care leavers. Kirklees Cares will create a new peer mentoring service for care leavers, along with making other service improvements, and highlights the council's commitment to this group of young people. . The project is funded via a £400k grant, which the council successfully gained from the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the Transformation Challenge Award (TCA). Kirklees Cares is also closely linked to the council priority of early intervention and prevention – providing support at an early stage so that people are less likely to need acute services in the

future. This is an innovative piece of work which will have a wide range of benefits. It is designed to transform the outcomes of people who are making the difficult transition into a more independent lifestyle after being a looked after child/young person.

## **2. Key points**

- 2.1) In November 2014, the council was successful in a bid for £400k to the Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) to develop an innovative approach to services for care leavers – Kirklees Cares, in partnership with West Yorkshire Police. This funding was made available to support English local authorities in transforming their operation, make changes to their business processes and work with the wider public sector to improve services for local people. Projects were expected to demonstrate business re-engineering, service redesign and innovative thinking.
- 2.2) Children and young people who have been in care have often had a difficult start in life. Compared with the general population, they are more likely to face a number of challenges. National research shows that children in care and care leavers account for less than 1% of the total population but 20% of young homeless people, 24% of the adult prison population and 70% of sex workers. In addition, care leavers are half as likely to be in education, employment or training (EET) at 19 than the general population, less likely to be in higher education (6% at 19 compared with 30% for the general population) and four times as likely to become young mothers. They are also more likely to misuse drugs and alcohol with a third engaged in substance misuse within a year of leaving care. Kirklees Council already has a wide range of services to support care leavers and help them move into education, employment and training. As a result, local care leavers tend to achieve better outcomes than the national average. However, very importantly, the new TCA funding will enable us to build on our existing good practices.
- 2.3) The Kirklees Cares project seeks to improve outcomes through a number of routes:
  - A new model for leaving care services, integrating voluntary peer and practical support with our existing Looked After Children & Care Leavers Service.
  - Partnerships with the private sector to provide advice and services to care leavers on a pro-bono basis.
  - Ensuring mobile connectivity for care leavers.
- 2.4) The aim of the project is to increase resilience and improve outcomes – a flexible and responsive approach that can stop problems escalating to a crisis.
- 2.5) The benefits of the approach are expected to be:
  - Access to a mentoring scheme in which care leavers can receive dedicated peer support from someone who has been through the

care system. As the mentors themselves have experience of being in care, they will be able to empathise with the young people, understand the real experience of leaving care and understand the kinds of support that can really make a difference.

- Access to a wide range of practical support by linking with volunteer advisors (drawn from council staff with specific skills and expertise valuable to everyday living)
- Access to pro bono support from private sector partners
- Increased resilience, leading to improved outcomes and life chances
- Reduced likelihood of being a victim of crime or exploitation.
- Increased resilience, improved life chances and outcomes

2.6) This project is part of our service development, working towards fulfilling the council's 'Community Commitment' that all young people leaving council care will be in employment, education or training.

### 3. Implications for the Council

3.1) The costs and projected outcomes of the project have been analysed using the [New Economy CBA Tool](#). The results are as follows:

- Net present budget impact: -£291,668.27
- Payback period: 5 years

3.2) There are expected to be savings across a number of public sector organisations. Using the CBA tool, potential cashable savings by each partner have been calculated to be:

	LA	NHS	Police	Probation	Courts/ Legal Aid	Prisons	Other
Short term cashability savings (£k)	91	101	19	-	5	6	4
Large scale cashability savings (£k)	164	253	38	3	11	15	11

3.3) We will refine the modelling of the impact to partners over the initial period of the project, based on robust analysis of the project in its set up and delivery phases. We intend to reach early agreement in principle on a cost recovery mechanism with partners, the detail of which will be informed by this analysis.

3.4) The expenditure related to grant award is expected to be apportioned as shown in the table below:

Cost category	Predicted costs
Programme management	£100k
Facilitated co-production	£10k
Selection, vetting, training of peer and practical support	£75k

Peer incentives and expenses	£10k
Ethnographic research	£75k
Venues and activities	£10k
Smartphones	£60k
App development	£30k
Data and evaluation	£20k
Auntie Pam's advice / consultancy support	£10k
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£400k</b>

- 3.5) Benefits to local people arise through reduced costs to local public service providers, enabling those resources to be channelled into other local priorities.

#### 4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1) The project design and model of delivery has been developed with the Children in Care Council. The Children in Care Council is a way that children and young people who are looked after by Kirklees Council can have an influential voice in the things that really affect their lives
- 4.2) Auntie Pam's – a nationally recognised support service for mums-to-be, based in Kirklees – have provided advice in the development of the project plan and will be part of the project going forward in order to provide advice and guidance in the development of a mentoring service.

#### 5. Next steps

- 5.1) Set up phase (April 15 – Sept 2015):
- Recruit a programme manager and set up the programme management
  - Establish the training programme, matching process, support mechanism and review/evaluation process
  - Recruit and train volunteers and private sector pro bono partners
  - Sign up looked after children and care leavers
  - Workshops – to clarify expectations and operational issues
  - Design ethnographic research methodology approach
  - Establish evaluation and data model, including establishing the local baseline
  - Agreement on cost recovery and sustainability model
  - Mobile app developed, tested and refined
- 5.2) Delivery phase (Oct 2015 – onwards):
- Current LAC (age 15+) and new care leavers accessing peer support
  - New care leavers accessing practical support

- New care leavers accessing pro bono support from private sector partners
- Ethnographic research being used to adapt and refine the model
- Real time intelligence on emotional, health and wellbeing being used to sharpen focus on targeted support and intervention
- Impact and outcome evaluation

## **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

- 6.1) That Cabinet note the contents of the report and the expected benefits of the approach to care leavers and the council's community commitment that all young people leaving council care will be in employment, education or training.

## **7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation**

Children and young people who have been in care have often had a difficult start in life. We do everything we can to support them and this work is another step in enhancing their life chances.

They will be helped by adults who have also experienced being in care and who understand the unique challenges they face and the kinds of support that will have the greatest benefits.

There are over 600 looked after children and young people in Kirklees, of whom more than 60 will reach their 18th birthday and become care leavers in the current year.

The council also works with 225 young adults, aged 18 to 21, who have already left care but are still being offered support via dedicated personal advisers.

We are strongly committed to supporting this vulnerable group of people. Kirklees Cares is an excellent, innovative project and will make a real difference in many local lives.

## **8. Contact officer and relevant papers**

Bev Paris – Head of Corporate Parenting  
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## **9. Assistant director responsible**

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