

Report to Corporate Parenting Board

Title	Report of Care Leavers Ambassadors Event
Author	Stephanie Hill (Project Manager) Lauren Stephenson (Service Manager)
Date of Meeting	23/04/2024
Report subject	To provide an overview and update on the Care Leavers Ambassadors Event
Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Care Leavers Service are working to establish a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Network’ – a network of support for care leavers including partners, organisations, and businesses, to develop enrichment opportunities, raise funds for events and activities, and enhance our local offer for care leavers. On 7th March 2024, the Care Leavers Service held a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Networking Event’, sponsored by Kirklees College, to which we invited council colleagues, partners, organisations, and businesses, to strengthen our relationships with them, and commence building the network of support. We had several speakers at the event, including care experienced adults who spoke around our ambition to create a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Network’, and why this is important for our care leavers. The event was a success from which we received several offers of support for our care leavers. The Care Leavers Service is now working with partners and organisations to progress these. We aim to hold further networking events in future, and also continue to form and build relationships with partners and organisations outside of these events.
Summary of Decisions	
For Information	
Background documents (please list)	
Nil	

1. Introduction

- 1.0 The support required for our care leavers is vast and cannot be provided by the local authority alone – we need to build a network of support for our care leavers. The Care Leavers Service aims to establish a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Network’, which will be a network of support for care leavers including partners, organisations, and businesses, to develop enrichment opportunities and raise funds for events and activities and enhance the local offer for our care leavers.
- 1.1 On 7th March 2024, the Care Leavers Service held a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Networking Event’, to which we invited council colleagues, partners, organisations, and businesses.
- 1.2 The purpose of the event was to commence building this network, and to strengthen our relationships with partners, organisations, and businesses.

2. Event Programme

- 2.0 The event was opened by Joel Hanna (Head of Corporate Parenting) providing an introduction and overview of our ambition to create the network of support for our care leavers.
- 2.1 Andi Brierley (Head of Access, Participation, and Outcomes, Leeds Trinity University) who has an extensive career in youth justice and is care experienced himself, talked about his experience and why a wide network of support is important for our care leavers.
- 2.2 There was an input from Christine, Personal Advisor, and Jamie from Huddersfield Town Foundation, who talked about their roles supporting care leavers.
- 2.3 Omaid Badar, National Social Worker of the Year, talked about his care experience and challenges faced by our care experienced young people.
- 2.4 Palvinder Singh (CEO and Principle, Kirklees College) spoke in relation to his experience working with care experienced students, and again, why support for our care experienced young people is essential.
- 2.5 Lauren Stephenson (Interim Care Leavers Service Manager) reiterated that the support required for our care leavers is vast and wide, and asked those present to

inform the Care Leavers Service if there is any support they can offer, and to cascade the information presented at the event amongst their networks.

3. Outcome / Next Steps

3.0 The event saw representatives from various partners and organisations including C&K careers, Huddersfield University, Kirklees College, Kirklees Active Leisure, the Huddersfield Town Foundation Trust, Fourteen19, Kirklees Local TV, the Fran Perry Foundation, Learning and Early Support, the Virtual School and Housing in attendance. Cllr Viv Kendrick also attended.

3.1 The event was a success and has stimulated several offers of support which the Care Leavers Service is now progressing with partners and organisations. Some offers of support include, but are not limited to, those detailed below.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Offer of Support</u>
Kirklees Local TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create promotional material to promote and showcase our aims to create a Care Leavers Ambassadors Network and the need of support from partners, organisations, and businesses. • Training and work experience opportunities within the multi-media digital industry. • Facilitate access to civil service apprenticeships/careers. • Access to motivation speakers to inspire and guide care leavers on professional journeys. • Collaborative funding opportunities.
University of Huddersfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide information, advice, and guidance to care leavers. • Attend Care Leavers Service meeting to speak with team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To invite Care Leavers Service to relevant events.
Kirklees College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of venue when required. Meeting with service to explore all possibilities to support care leavers.
Kirklees Active Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Leavers Plus One access to KAL gyms to be explored.
Fran Perry Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for activities that meet the aims and aspirations of the Fran Perry Foundation (i.e., a theatre trip for care leavers). Shelia from the foundation is involved in an organisation teaching English therefore, to explore opportunities for our care experienced young people. Sheila is also a trustee with Fusion Housing if a link in is required.

The Care Leavers Service was already working closely with some of the attendees at this event including,

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Support/Connection</u>
The Huddersfield Town Foundation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting an independent living skills course which has recently been revised and will be commencing with a cohort of our care leavers in the near future. Bi-weekly football sessions for care leavers. Agreed to hold any funds raised to hold events and activities for our care experienced young people in their charitable pot which will be accessed for this purpose only.

<p>Fourteen19 – A strategic and creative youth agency promoting opportunities to teens and young adults and encouraging them to engage with beneficial products and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Care Leavers Service around two projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) “Into Work Creative Experience” workshops for our NEET young people to develop employability and life skills and; 2) Creating podcasts that demonstrate what it is like to be a young person with care experience and how challenges and obstacles have been overcome, for awareness of other care experienced young people who access these.
<p>C&K Careers</p>	<p>We have a representative from C&K careers who works alongside the Care Leavers Service and with our care experienced young people.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>The Care Leavers Service is working closely with Housing around the housing offer.</p>

3.2 Recognising the success of the event we are continuing to build and engage other partners, organisations, and businesses we would wish to build and strengthen our relationships with to develop and broaden this network of support for care leavers. We have continued to make further connections outside of this event, from which we have obtained further offers of support for our care leavers, and we aim to hold further ‘Care Leaver Ambassador Networking Events’.

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