

Corporate Parenting Board Report 20th July 2015

Title of paper:	Pathway Planning	
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	6 th July 2015	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report includes the current issues in relation to the legislative duties required by Nottingham City Council. It focuses on the work required by social workers and Personal Advisors in relation to the assessment, planning, implementation and reviews of Pathway Planning in order to ensure young people have a robust plan to aid transition into adulthood.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Board continues to support and understand the required duties of corporate parents in relation to Pathway Planning for children in care and Care Leavers.	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Nottingham City has a legislative duty to ensure all young people have a robust plan that is recorded and reviewed on their file.
- 1.2 Nottingham City implemented a new E-Pathway Plan to ensure plans are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely. The new plans better measure outcomes and provided clear evidence of young people's wishes and feelings.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 In April 2011, guidance was issued by the Government to Local Authorities/ Agencies who provide services to Care Leavers. This was updated in May 2014 to include further duties in respect of Staying Put arrangements.
- 2.2 The updated guidance also included direction on providing young people access to their records, and further guidance in respect of Personal Advisors' assisting and supporting young people with access to training: "Young people do not need to have decided what education or training they would like to pursue. They can get in touch if they are wanting to pursue education or training and in such cases, the Personal Advisor should help the young person identify the best options suited to them" (3.56).
- 2.3 The main aim of this guidance is to ensure Care Leavers are provided with support so they can achieve.
- 2.4 For all young people, the transition to adulthood can be a turbulent time. However, the transition time can be eased by living with carers / parents until they are emotionally and / or financially ready. However, for young people leaving care, this may not be an option. Therefore, as corporate parents, we need to provide support for our Care Leavers in the same way as reasonable parents provide support for their own children.
- 2.5 It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to assess, plan, implement and review Pathway Plans, and support young people as they transition into adulthood. This applies irrespective of other services provided, e.g. if they are disabled, in custody or they are unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).
- 2.6 The Children Act, 1979, requires that a Pathway Plan must be prepared for all eligible children and continued for all Relevant and Former Relevant Children.

The Pathway Plan is derived from their Care Plan and sets out the necessary actions to be taken by the Local Authority, the young person, their carers and agencies so that each young person has an individual plan that provides them with the services required to support a successful transition to adulthood.
- 2.7 The new E-Pathway Plan addresses the requirements of the Act. It includes:
 - Young person's health and development

- Education, training and employment
- Contact, supports and networks
- Young person's financial capabilities and money-management capacity
- Young person's views
- Input from parent / carers, providers of housing, Personal Advisor, health, education and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)

2.8 Young people leaving care will have a Health Passport (referred to as Important Health Information) which will give their full medical history in consultation with a Looked After Nurse, if the young person wishes to co-operate.

2.9 The Care Leavers' team employ a qualified social worker who acts as a dedicated Transitions Worker to work with young people, Adult Services, Carers, Social Workers and Personal Advisors to input into Pathway Planning for young people who require adult services or further support in their transition.

The Disabled Children's Team retain responsibility for formulating Pathway Planning on their caseload.

2.10 Unaccompanied asylum seeking children have both a leaving care and immigration status which means Pathway Planning can be complex. This requires a triple planning model, i.e. planning for young people to remain in the UK; for those who have been refused permission to remain; and those who may want to return to their country of origin.

Nottingham City Council have a legal duty to support UASC young people post 18 who are in an appeal regarding their immigration status. These duties include the allocation of a Personal Advisor, providing accommodation and financial support.

2.11 The LASPO (Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders) Act 2012 means Nottingham City Council has a legal duty to extend Looked After status to all young people remanded into custody. Therefore, once eligible, there is an expectation these young people have a Pathway Plan.

2.12 All young people, from 15 ³/₄ years of age, are required to have a Pathway Plan up until they are 18 years of age. These are formulated, implemented and reviewed by their allocated social workers. Post 18 Care Leavers are allocated a Personal Advisor who is then the key professional responsible for the continuation and review of the young people's Pathway Plans up until they are 21, or 24 if in full-time education.

2.13 Performance in respect of Pathway Plans has remained a challenge in ensuring all young people have a compliant and authorised Pathway Plan, which incorporate the views of the Personal Advisor. Despite challenges, much work has been undertaken to ensure good performance is maintained and poor performance is improved.

2.14 This is illustrated in our year to date (July 2015) performance figures, see Appendix 1. Performance is broken down according the legal definitions of our young person (i.e. eligible, relevant and former relevant) and measures performance against the percentage of young people who have

(a) ever had a Pathway Plan commenced

(b) had a Pathway Plan commenced in the last 6 months

(c) ever had a Pathway Plan completed and authorised in the preceding 6 months

2.15 Performance has either improved or good performance has been maintained in all areas over the last 12 month.

2.16 Monthly Performance Reports are produced by the Analysis and Insight Team to monitor and provide a tool for improving performance. A tracker has also been devised to enable an alert to social workers, PA's to inform them when a Review Pathway Plan is required

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 None

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

None

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in the EIA.

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 Leaving Care Act (2000)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents>

8.2 The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations – Volume 3: Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers (2010)
https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/pdf/PS_The%20Children%20Act_Nov2012a.pdf