

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 APRIL 2016
CARE LEAVERS
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the work undertaken and progress being made by the Leaving Care Service.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the support available to those leaving the Care Service in Nottingham.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Nottingham City Council has a statutory duty to provide services to those young people defined as Care Leavers under the Statutory Guidance; The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations; Volume 3, Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers, The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Children and Young Persons Act 2008.

- 3.2 Nottingham City Council's Leaving Care Service endeavours to ensure that each young person is provided with a service that is tailored to meet a young person's needs, which is reviewed to ensure their transition into adulthood is successful.

- 3.3 The Leaving Care Service provides services to:

- Eligible young people are those young people currently looked after and have been looked after for a period of 13 weeks or periods amounting to a total of 13 weeks which began after age 14 and ended on reaching 16;
- Relevant young people are those young people who are:
 - Not looked after;
 - Aged 16/17 and before this, ceased to be looked after for a period or periods amounting to 13 weeks after reaching 14.
- This includes those young people (16/17) who were detained/secured or detained under the Mental Health Act in hospital and had been looked after for a period or periods amounting to 13 weeks after reaching 14.
- Persons qualifying for advice/assistance are defined as persons aged between 16 and 21, whereby a Special Guardianship order was in force.

- 3.4 Nottingham City Council has a duty to provide and sustain young people defined as Care Leavers with suitable accommodation. The Act defines suitable accommodation as the following:
- That which is reasonably practical and suitable for the young person with regards to their needs;
 - That which the responsible Authority finds satisfactory with regards to the character and suitability of the landlord/provider;
 - Accommodation that complied with Health and Safety Legislation;
 - That which takes into account young people's views, training, education and employment needs.
- 3.5 The Committee will hear from the Council's Director of Children's Integrated Services.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Leaving Care Service Report (to follow).

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 None.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 Citywide

8 Contact information

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