

Corporate Parenting Board Report

Title of paper:	NEET/EET Progress/Accommodation for Care-Leavers	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Ian Curryer, Corporate Director	Wards affected: ALL
Report author(s) and contact details:	Paulette Thompson-Omenka, Head of Service. Sharon Clarke, Service Manager Sara Bond, Team Manager 15+	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Jane Oakley, Connexions Elise Darragh, Insight Manager (Analytical) Children in Care Lynn Pearce, Assistant Manager 15+ Bill Connor, Connexions	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		✓
Neighbourhood Nottingham		✓
Family Nottingham		✓
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		✓
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>Nationally and locally there is a concerning picture for young people in respect of educational and employment opportunities in this current economic crisis.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to ensure that the employment and education of care leavers as a Corporate Parenting Board remains the lead body in driving the actions required across Nottingham City to continue to improve the outcomes for young people leaving care to access further Education or Employment which will improve their life chances.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Corporate Parenting Board remains the lead body in driving action across Nottingham City Council in respect of Employment and Education.	
2	The Corporate Parenting Board approves the National Care Advisory Service (NCAS) Report and commits to working towards the Quality Mark for Nottingham City.	
3	The Board to offer commitment to ensuring the on going multi-agency focus group continues to drive Employability and Education of care leavers.	
4.	The board continues to offer commitment in support of the implementation of the Framework of semi-independence accommodation for 16-18 year olds.	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1

NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Q1	Q2	Q3	Target (10/11)	SN (10/11)	Outturn 07/08	Outturn 08/09	Outturn 09/10	Outturn 10/11	YTD against target
NI148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	63.6%	65.2%	62.9%	95.0%	58.0%	75.0%	69.4%	72.4%	54.1%	R

1.2 Since the new management of the 15+ service there has been a drive to implement on electronic pathway plan on Care First which will enable better information to be captured in respect of NEET/EET information in Nottingham City. This is currently in transition but is envisaged by November 2012 all children eligible for a pathway plan will have an updated pathway plan available on the Care First system. All young people aged 15.5 are legally required to have a pathway plan initiated.

The social worker/Personal Advisor undertake a recorded assessment in respect of career planning for young people which sets the goals and aspirations for young people.

Independent Reviewing Officers scrutinize pathway plans in statutory reviews and ensure education and employments are discussed.

1.3 A multi-agency focus group has been established to formulate a strategic Action Plan to ensure employability and education remains a priority for all employees working with young people.

The strategic Action Plan feeds into the Children in Care outcomes group, Children in Care council and ultimately the corporate parenting boards.

This employability support plan will be submitted to the national Care Advisory Service (NCAS) board in April where it is hoped it will be awarded a quality mark.

1.4 Nottingham City Council has made a commitment to identify care leavers as a priority for all new entry level posts, the focus group has worked to identify appropriate processes and drivers to ensure young people receive the opportunity to apply for these posts and the employers of these young people are given support in respect of these apprenticeships.

Currently we have 2 young people who have been successful in securing posts.

Recently Patra has also offered 5 apprenticeships as a priority to care leavers and one young person has been successful in securing a post.

1.5 The virtual school in Nottingham City has made a commitment to extend their remit to meet the needs of care leavers and a consultant attends the focus group and reports back to the virtual head.

1.6 There are 2 dedicated careers workers based at 15+ and they take the lead in co-ordinating employment opportunities for care leavers including unaccompanied Asylum seekers. The workers in conjunction with personal advisors ensure care leavers can access connexions to guide career planning.

1.7 Nottingham City Council continues to hold an Annual award ceremony to recognise the achievements of Children in Care and care leavers.

The ceremony (“Big it up”) is well attended and considered a very successful event. Evaluations received by young people tell us that they value the evening.

- 1.8 Nottingham City commissions the RISE programme to work with Children in Care/care leavers which involve work placements, events and provide coaching and mentoring to prepare young people for employment.

RISE – November 2011 – February 2012

- 15 young people have received one to one mentoring of Children in Care/care leavers
- 5 places offered through Boots school leaver programme.
- 40 RISE programmes
- 36 places on 6 Behind the Scene Events
- 36 Work placements
- 4 job offers through the RISE programme

RISE have successfully engaged 6 local/national companies to provide a variety of work placements 3 work placements secured through Nottingham City Council.

- 1.9 The focus group also report to the Children in Care Council to ensure they are involved in any future planning and kept updated in terms of the strategic action plan.

- 1.10 The 15+ team, Senior Personal Advisor, is also taking the lead in conjunction with Residential managers to implement sessions for care leavers to prepare for employment i.e. preparation for interviews, CV’s, expectations of social skills etc. This is being implemented in conjunction with the Housing Department who are advising young people on budgeting and maintaining tenancies. Young People who are attending the sessions are being supplied with carpets/curtains and welcome packs from the Housing Department.

2. ACCOMODATION

NI/Local Code	Short Name	Responsible Officer	Q1	Q2	Q3	Target (10/11)	SN (10/11)	Outturn 07/08	Outturn 08/09	Outturn 09/10	Outturn 10/11	YTD against target
NI147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	81.8%	78.3%	74.3%	100%	88.8%	100%	94.4%	91.4%	82%	R

- 2.1 Section 23B of The Children Act 1989 requires Local Authorities to provide relevant children with or maintain them in suitable accommodation.

- 2.2 Reg 9 (2) of the Act defines suitable accommodation as accommodation that is:
- As far as reasonably practicable suitable for the child in light of their needs
 - The Local Authority has satisfied itself to the character/suitability of providers.
 - That accommodation complies with health and safety requirements.
 - And that the Local Authority has taken into account as reasonably practicable the child’s wishes feelings, education, employment or training needs.

- 2.3 In deciding whether accommodation is suitable Local Authorities must have had regard to the matters set out in sch2 (care leavers regulations) because of the diverse needs of care leavers and the way in which these may change over tome a range of semi independent and independent accommodation for care leavers is required.

These may include:

- Staying put arrangements – (young person remains in foster placement on a care leavers basis)
- Supported lodgings – (stay with a ‘family’, ‘carer’ recruited specifically to support care leavers)
- Supported shared housing, independent flats, return to family, shared housing with support tailored packages.

2.4 Nottingham City Council has implemented from November 2011 a framework for semi independence accommodation that has included all these options for young people. Tenders were considered also in terms of providers ensuring employment, education and training needs as a priority.

2.5 The following providers were successful in securing provision for our care leavers: YMCA, NCHA, Framework, Wyntax, Home group, Tintum, pathway Care, BACA, Semi independent housing and Stonham in respect of supported lodgings.

2.6 These providers are quality assured by our placement service which includes submitting reports on outcomes achieved. They are also expected to be actively involved with our LAC Police officer to continue the reduction of criminalisation of care leavers.

2.7 This framework will be evaluated in terms of cost effectiveness and delivery of outcomes and is managed through the commissioning framework.

2.8 During the recent Ofsted inspection of Nottingham City’s fostering service this area of our practice was noted as outstanding practice.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

3.1 To ensure the corporate Parenting Board remain the lead in ensuring employment and educational opportunities are made available to care leavers and approve the actions undertaken by the Focus Group.

3.2 The board approves the NCAS report in respect of employability/education of children in care/care leavers

3.3 The board commits to the support of the Framework for semi independence accommodation.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 None required

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

5.1 The Annual award ceremony is funded by private providers.

5.2 There are no other financial implications all other actions are financed through existing resources in respect of NEET/EET.

5.3 Reduction in costs for placements for semi independence accommodation.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

- 6.1 The Children Act 1989 volume 3 sets out the legal requirements for Nottingham City Council in respect of care leavers employability and access to training and further education.
- 6.2 The Act sets out requirements also for the accommodation of care leavers.

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

- 7.1 Employability Support Work Plan

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 8.1 Ofsted Fostering Inspection 2011 – rated good.