

Corporate Parenting Board
November 2012

Title of paper:	Pathway Plan	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Ian Curryer, Corporate Director of Childrens Services and Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer Satinder Gautam, Director of Childrens Safeguarding	Wards affected: All
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Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		X
Neighbourhood Nottingham		X
Family Nottingham		X
Healthy Nottingham		X
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report explains the current up to date issues in respect of the Legislative duties required by Nottingham City Council in respect of Pathway Planning. It focuses on the work of the 15 Plus Team and the Personal Advisors and describes the complexities of Pathway Planning and the importance of ensuring all young people have a robust quality Pathway Plan to ensure a smooth transition into Adulthood.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Board to continue to offer commitment and acknowledge the importance of Pathway Planning for young people to improve outcomes for young people transitioning into adulthood.	
2	The Board to recognise the barriers encountered in Pathway Planning for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In April 2011 new guidance was issued from the Government to Local Authorities and Agencies who provided services to Care Leavers (The Children Act 1989, Vol 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers). The guidance replaced the provisions of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

1.2 The main aim is of these regulations and the guidance is to ensure Care Leavers are provided with comprehensive personal support so that they achieve their potential as they make their transition to adulthood.

1.3 Transition to adulthood can be a turbulent time and for many young adults their transition to adulthood can be extended until they are emotionally and/or financially ready, however young people from care may not have this option as they may not have the option of having support from their families.

1.4 As Corporate Parents, responsible authorities should provide support to Care Leavers in the same way reasonable parents provide support for their own children.

1.5 It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to prepare Pathway Plans and support Care Leavers as they make the transition to adulthood. This applies irrespective of any other services being provided e.g. if they are disabled, in custody, or as an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC).

1.6 The Children 1989 Act requires that a Pathway Plan must be prepared for all eligible children and continued for all relevant and former relevant children. Each young persons Pathway Plan is derived from their Care Plan and will set out the actions to be taken by the Local Authority, the young person, their parents, their carer and the full range of agencies so that each young person is provided with the services they need to enable them to achieve their aspirations and make a successful transition to adulthood.

1.7 The Pathway Plan must address in particular:

- The young person's health and development.
- Education, Training and Employment.

(Personal Education Plan to be maintained whilst young person in full time education).

- Contact with young persons family and friends.
- The young persons financial capabilities and money management capacity
The social worker preparing the Pathway Plan must engage constructively with the young person and consult with:
- The young person's parent/carers
- The young person's current carer and any prospective provider of Housing/support.
- The young person's designated teachers, college tutor or other
- Any independent visitor
- Personal Advisor
- Health professionals
- Independent Reviewing Officer

2. Pathway Planning in Nottingham City

2.1 Nottingham City Council has a dedicated social work team (Fifteen Plus) who case-manage the majority of eligible young people who require a Pathway Plan. Social workers within the Fifteen Plus Team are allocated young people at the age of fifteen so that

preparation and planning for their transition to adulthood can be completed in a timely way and preparation for a time when they are not 'Looked After' can be integral to the process. There are occasions when young people are transferred to the team who are eligible but do not yet have a Pathway Plan, e.g. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people and young people accommodated on an emergency basis.

3. Young people with disabilities

3.1 Disabled young people will face many of the same experiences and challenges as other care leavers, however the transition to adulthood for disabled young people is particularly challenging. A local authorities responsibilities towards disabled care leavers are the same. Within Nottingham City the Disabled Children's Team case manage these young people and are responsible for the formulation and implementation of these young peoples Pathway Plans.

4. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

4.1 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people making the transition from care to adulthood have both a 'leaving care' status and an immigrations status. Pathway Planning for UASC is a complex process and has to include the following: Triple Planning Model, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, Wade, Mitchell, Bayliss pg 197

- Plans for staying within the UK
- Plans for those who have been refused permission to stay in the UK
- Those who may choose to return to their country of origin.

"multi-dimensional Pathway Planning needs to be flexible and realistic taking into account each of these likely scenario's for each young person" (Wade, Mitchell, Bayliss).

4.2 Local Authorities are now responsible for UASC post-18 who are in Appeal. This includes the allocation of a Personal Advisor, accommodation, financial support and the review of Pathway Plans. This is a formal statutory duty placed on all local authorities.

5. Care leavers in the Youth Justice system

5.1 Local Authorities will be responsible for those young people facing custodial sentences under the new legislation being implemented in December 2012 as part of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. Currently only young people who have Court Ordered Secure Remand receive Looked After status. The LASPO Act extends the Looked After status to all young people remanded in custody including those remanded to Young Offender Institutions. There is an expectation that a Pathway Plan is completed for those young people under 18 eligible for a Pathway Plan with the Youth Offending team or Probation Services if over 18. This is a new duty that may face challenging for all local authorities.

5.2 It is essential that Pathway Plans and support are available to eligible young people who are convicted/sentenced/imprisoned as they are particularly vulnerable. This is also relevant to those young people detained in Hospital, Secure Training Centres, Secure Children's Homes or Young Offender Institutions

6. Personal Advisors

Personal Advisors are based within the Fifteen Plus Team. All young people eligible for a Pathway Plan must be allocated a Personal Advisor under the legal framework. Personal Advisors are not qualified workers but possess the necessary expertise and skills to work

with young people who are transitioning into adulthood. Nottingham City has 236 Care Leavers who require a Personal Advisor.

Reg 8 of the care leavers Regulations sets out the functions of a Personal Advisor. These include:

- Basic information and support to assist young people with practical skills
- Information/support re: finances
- Information/support re: Housing
- Information/support re: Health
- Information/support re: Education, Training and Employment.

The Personal Advisor is the key professional responsible for coordinating care leavers support and have the responsibility for the reviewing of Care Leavers Pathway Plans, ensuring that all the dimensions of need set out in the framework for Assessment of Children in Need are met.

Care leavers will have a Personal Advisor until the age of twenty-one or twenty-four if a young person is in full time education.

Section 23CA of the 1989 Act also requires that young people previously eligible for leaving care services who resume programmes of Education or training after the age of twenty-one are entitled to continuing support from a Personal Advisor and will require reviews of their Pathway Plan. They are entitled to an assessment which will determine the extent of practical and financial support the Local Authority needs to provide.

7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

Currently performance stands at 97.2% of young people who are eligible for a Pathway Plan. The Board to continue to support the work undertaken to ensure young people have a robust Pathway Plan to support their transition into Adulthood.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None currently

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

None currently

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

1. The implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 to be implemented in December 2012 will have an impact on current resources at the Fifteen Plus Team. The additional young people who are required to be Looked – After under the new law will require a Pathway Plan and the services of a Personal Advisor.

11 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

No: This report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions.

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

None

13 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

The Children Act 1989, Guidance and Regulations, Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers