

## Corporate Parenting Board – June 2013

<b>Title of paper:</b>	<b>Pathway Planning 15 Plus Service</b>	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Candida Brudenell – Interim Corporate Director of Childrens Services Helen Blackman – Acting Director of Children's Safeguarding	<b>Wards affected:</b> ALL
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	Sharon Clarke – Service Manager Children in Care Chris Shooter – Team Manager 15 Plus Lynn Pearce – Senior Personal Advisor	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Tina Thurley – Insight and Analysis	
<b>Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:</b>		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		<b>x</b>
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham		<b>x</b>
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>		
This report explains the current issues regarding the legislative duties required by Nottingham City Council in respect of Pathway Planning for Care Leavers and the importance of robust quality Pathway Plans to ensure a smooth transition into Adulthood.		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	The Board to offer commitment and acknowledgement of the importance of Pathway Planning for young people.	
<b>2</b>	The Board to recognise the work undertaken by Personal Advisors/Social Workers in the 15 Plus Service to ensure quality robust Pathway Planning.	

## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 In April 2011 a new guidance was issued from the Government to Local Authorities/Agencies who provide services to Care Leavers (Children Act 1989, Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers) which replaced the provisions of the Leaving Care Act (2000). The main aim of this legislation is to ensure Care Leavers are provided with individual comprehensive support so that they achieve their potential as they transition into adulthood.

1.2 As Corporate Parents we should provide support to Care Leavers in the same way reasonable parents provide support to their children as they grow into young adults. This can be a turbulent time for many young adults but for the majority they have the practical/emotional support from their families, but for most Care Leavers this is not an option.

1.3 The preparation of a Pathway Plan and support to Care Leavers is the Local Authorities responsibility and this applies irrespective of any other services that may be provided.

1.4 The Children Act (1989) requires that a Pathway Plan must be prepared for eligible, relevant and former relevant young people. This plan is derived from a child's Care Plan and has to set out the actions to be taken by the Local Authority, the young person, their parents, carers and agencies so each young person is provided with the support and services they require to achieve their aspirations and make a successful transition to adulthood.

1.5 The Pathway Plan must include:

- Young persons health
- Education, training and employment
- Contact
- Financial capabilities
- Young persons views
- Relevant professionals views on the Pathway Plan i.e. teachers, health professionals etc
- Oversight by an Independent Reviewing Officer
- Views of young person's parents/carer

## **2. Pathway Planning in Nottingham City**

2.1 Nottingham City Council has a dedicated team who case manage the majority of young people who require a Pathway Plan. At the age of 15, cases are transferred to Social Workers in the 15 Plus Team, so that preparation and planning for their transition can be completed in a timely way.

2.2 The 15 Plus Team now hold Pathway Planning Forum Meetings at the time nearest to a young person's 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday, to ensure the Pathway Plan meets the individual requirements of a young person before it is authorised by the Team Manager. It is then reviewed six monthly until a child's 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday and/or before transfer to a Personal Advisor. This is a mechanism to ensure plans are robust and are of a good quality and remain a 'living' document.

2.3 Disabled young people face many of the same experiences and challenges as all Care Leavers, however their transition can be particularly challenging. The Disabled Children's Team within Nottingham City manage the majority of these cases to ensure a smooth transitional pathway into Adult Services.

2.4 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) making the transition from Care to adulthood have both a Leaving Care status and an immigration status. This can be a complex process and has to involve Triple Planning (Wade, Mitchell, Bayliss pg.197)

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

Local Authorities are also responsible for UASC, Post 18, who are in Appeal regarding their immigration status. This includes the allocation of a Personal Advisor, accommodation, and financial support and the reviewing of their Pathway Plans.

2.5 Local Authorities, since December 2012 with the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (Act 2012) (LASPO), are responsible for those young people remanded in custody. If this remand period extends beyond 13 weeks a young person acquires Care Leavers status and will require the implementation of a Pathway Plan. This is relevant to young people detained in Hospital, Secure Training Centres, Secure Children's Homes, Young Offender Institutions and those remanded to Local Authority Care.

### **3. Personal Advisors**

3.1 Personal Advisors are based within the 15 Plus Service. All young people eligible for a Pathway Plan must be allocated a Personal Advisor. They are not qualified Social Workers but must possess the necessary skills and expertise to work with young Care Leavers. Currently Nottingham City Council 249 Care Leavers who require the allocation of a Personal Advisor. There are 110 young people requiring a Pathway Plan. There are 13 young people defined as Relevant young people requiring Pathway Planning and 214 Former Relevant Young People also Eligible for a Pathway Plan.

3.2 Regulation 8, of the Care Leavers Regulations, sets out the functions of a Personal Advisor which include:

- Information and support to Care Leavers re: practical skills
- Information and support re: finances, housing, health, education, training, and employment.

The Personal Advisor is the key professional responsible for co-ordinating Care Leavers support and for the reviewing of the Pathway Plans.

3.3 Care Leavers will have a Personal Advisor until the age of 21 or 24, if a young person is in full time education. The Children's Act (1989), Section 23CA, Volume 3, also now states that young people previously eligible who wish to resume programmes of education or training after the age of 21, require an assessment as to the support required from the Local Authority. This can include the support of a Personal Advisor, financial or practical support.

### **4 Performance**

4.1 Currently performance stands at 90.0% for young people who are Eligible for a Pathway Plan.

To improve this performance further Pathway Plan forums have been booked. This will support the progression of pathway plans from 15 yrs to 16 yrs to ensure young people have robust compliant pathway plans in place. This process will start w/c 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Independent Personal Advisors for 15-18 year olds are now being sourced through YOT workers/Carers/CAMHS Workers etc, that are relevant to the young person to increase out put of compliant pathway plans. Social workers are already working with these identified people to ensure young people's views are represented.

### **5 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

No recommendations.

### **6. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

None

### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

There is a financial implication/ risk with young people Post 21, approaching the Local Authority for support regarding further education, training or employment.

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

8.1 The implementation of the LASPO Act (2012) has seen an increase in young people eligible for Care Leaver Services, which has an impact on service resources.

LASPO Frame work in place. A flowchart has been created regarding the LASPO process between screening and duty team, YOT and 15+ team. Training will be developed with YOT and 15+ to promote working together with these young people.

8.2 There is a financial implication/ risk with young people Post 21, approaching the Local Authority for support regarding further education, training or employment.

**9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

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

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

None

**11. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

Volume 3: Children Act – Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers.

Leaving Care Act (2000)