

Corporate Parenting Board – 16 May 2022

Title:	Integrated Care Partnership – Care Leavers Project update	
Corporate Director:	Catherine Underwood - People	Wards affected: All
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Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:		
Keeping Nottingham Working	X	
Child-Friendly Nottingham	X	
Healthy and Inclusive	X	
Better Housing	X	
Serving People Well	X	
Recommendation:		
1	That the Board notes the latest position in respect of the project.	

1. Latest position

In 2019 Barnardo's were gifted legacy funding from a supporter who requested that the money be used to support work with children or young people in Nottingham City or Nottinghamshire County.

Initially a table top exercise was carried out to look at what funding and services were available in the City and County and during 2019 it was agreed within Barnardo's that the funds would be used to support care experienced young people as this also reflects one of Barnardo's strategic objectives of Positive Futures.

Three areas of a care experienced young person's life were initially considered – Mental health, Accommodation, and Positive Destinations. At an event hosted by Barnardo's in 2019, key stakeholders within the LA, Health, voluntary sector and other interested parties shared their views that all three areas should be the focus of the Legacy funds to ensure that the pathway for care experienced young people is considered holistically.

In 2020 as Barnardo's were exploring how the funds should be used across the City and County, the Integrated Care Partnership in the City (now known as Place Based Partnership) were also looking to include care leavers as one of their priorities. At that time, Barnardo's made the decision to use the Legacy funds to support care experienced young people within the City only.

Since that time there have been regular meetings involving representatives from Barnardo's, the LA, Health and other interested organisations for each of three areas listed above – Mental Health, Accommodation and Positive Destinations. These meetings have shaped the developments and the plans below:

Accommodation

Supported Lodgings service:

- A Supported Lodgings service, managed by Barnardo's was set up in 2021 using Legacy funding to recruit, train and support hosts, who offer a spare bedroom and their time to support a young person to gain independent living skills while they are living with them.

- 8 supported lodgings hosts have been approved at panel, with a further host recommended for approval, awaiting ADM ratification due to a change in the host's circumstances.
- 4 hosts approved at panel, have been recruited through Place to Call Home and are able to provide a specialist placement for an unaccompanied asylum-seeking young person.
- 4 young people are currently living with a Supported Lodgings host and Barnardo's and NCC are working together to identify other young people as suitable matches for the other approved hosts.

The accommodation group are in the process of preparing a further proposal for Legacy funding which is hoped to go to Barnardo's board in June 2022:

- To recruit a Project Worker to work alongside another Project Worker to be recruited through 'Staying Close' funding available to NCC. The role of these two workers would be to support a small number of hard to reach young people who need additional support to manage a tenancy and live more independently. They would work flexibly including daytime, evenings and weekends.

Mental Health

Befriending Service:

- The Befriending service, managed by Barnardo's is in the process of being set up through Legacy funding. The service is to recruit volunteers to provide support to care experienced young people initially aged 16 plus, supporting young people in the transition as they leave care.
- The support provided to a young person will depend on their needs but will focus on reducing isolation and loneliness that young people can often feel as they move on from care.
- There has been a positive response to the volunteer advert so far, and the volunteer coordinator in the service is currently progressing 10 applications for befrienders.
- NCC and Barnardo's are working together to agree the referral pathway for care experienced young people who would benefit from this opportunity.

You Know Your Mind proposal:

- This programme, funded through the CCG and Barnardo's will allow care experienced young people to access personal budgets to support their emotional wellbeing and mental health. Colleagues within Children's Social Work and Leaving Care teams will receive 'Different Conversation' training in order for them to support young people to access this funding.

Two Mental Health practitioners embedded within the Leaving Care team:

- A proposal has been agreed in principle by Barnardo's Board to employ two MH practitioners through Legacy funding. These practitioners would provide flexible and responsive interventions for young people leaving care who are no longer eligible for Children in Care CAMHS support. They will also offer support to PAs.
- Further work is to take place between Barnardo's, NCC, the CCG and the Healthcare Trust to agree how each organisation can move this forward with Barnardo's employing the two MH practitioners through Legacy funding.

Positive Destinations

Aspiration Champion Network:

- This opportunity is to promote the aspirations of care experienced young people in relation to their employment and education options.
- This is available for young people from the age of 14 (when young people start to think about what options they are going to take at school) up until the age of 25. It is available for those young people not in education or employment and those who are looking for a change in career.
- Support offered by a champion, who volunteers their time to take on this role, can be anything from a one-off conversation about the young person's options to ongoing weekly support.

ASDAN Living Independently courses:

- Care experienced young people who want to be able to live independently in the future will complete these courses in order to demonstrate their ability to manage a tenancy.
- These courses include keeping track of your money, making financial choices, health and wellbeing, preparing for the world of work etc with the young person receiving a recognised qualification on completion of the courses.
- NCC have been working with foster carers and residential staff so that they have an understanding of how they will be supporting young people to achieve these credited courses.

Working with Care experienced young people who become parents:

- Mental Health Foundation have now launched their Young Mum's Connect programme in the city. This is a peer support model. Links have been made with the Programme Manager to see how this offer can be communicated to care experienced young parents and those professionals in NCC working with them.
- Links are being made with Small Steps Big Changes and Family Nurse Partnership to explore the possibility of an improved offer being made to this cohort of young people.

The Positive Destinations group are in the process of preparing a further proposal for Legacy funding for a tutor embedded within the Leaving Care team. This role would be to work with care experienced young people on a one to one level at a pace they are comfortable with to gain qualifications around their functional skills, from pre-entry level up to level 2. The opportunity will be for those young people furthest away from education, employment or training.