

Care Leavers Local Offer

Children's Partnership Board

June 2023



Nottingham
City Council

Background

- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 established new duties for Corporate Parents and included the requirement for a Local Offer that should explain the services for care leavers on offer from both the local authority and other agencies



Ofsted Inspection of Nottingham City Council in 2022

- One of the eight key areas for improvement set out was the service response to care leavers aged 21 and over:-

‘The majority of care leavers are informed of their rights and entitlements. The offer of support and entitlements are outlined for care leavers, although it has not been updated since 2018. The local offer does not confirm the statutory requirement to provide a PA to support care leavers post-21 years of age. The local authority is not consistently fulfilling its duty to care leavers post-21 years of age. ‘



New Ofsted Framework – from April 23 Care Leavers now has a separate judgement area

- Care leavers are aware of and understand the local offer. The local authority's offer is ambitious, clear and accessible.
- It takes account of the corporate parenting principles, sets out how the local authority is delivering on young people's statutory entitlements and is clear about what further discretionary support the local authority offers.
- The local offer is clear about the help provided to young people with specific needs, such as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, young parents and young people who have had contact with the criminal justice system.
- The local authority consults care leavers effectively on the local offer. It monitors how effective the local offer is at providing good experiences for young people and helping them to make progress.
- The local authority reviews and updates the offer regularly to ensure that it continues to meet young people's needs.
- Children's services work closely with other local authority departments and local partners to develop a multi-agency offer for care leavers that supports their overall well-being. The corporate parenting board takes ownership of the offer and monitors its effectiveness.



What have we done ?

- Obtained DfE funding to build a new interactive and accessible Local Offer platform collaboratively with care leavers (kick off June 2023)
- Established a Local Offer Task and Finish Group under our Place Based work - cross department and partnership membership. Leading to an enhanced Local Offer around transport and plans around Council Tax; Leisure and a Conference with City employers
- Through the Place Based work delivered new services to strengthen the Local Offer in the areas of Mental Health ; Housing and Employment
- Increased Personal Advisor and management oversight capacity – 3 new posts and funding for interim Service Manager just for CLS
- Task and Finish Group with Housing and Commissioning to increase post -18 housing offer
- Councillors have passed a motion to make care leaver a protected characteristic



Our offer now includes

- Dept of Levelling Up funding for Homelessness post
- DfE money in place for Staying Close worker
- 2 Mental Health workers in post
- 18 – 25 Tutor being recruited
- ASDAN roll out
- Befriending Service 16- 25
- You Know Your Own Mind
- Supported Lodging
- Aspiration Champions
- DfE funded Digital Platform
- NHS Pathfinders funding recently awarded to NC and NCC ICS
- Travel passes
- Employers Conference in September



What next ?

- Evaluation and Sustainability of our innovative Place Based work
- Housing Strategy that includes care leavers
- Clear and exciting offer for all care leavers on an App based platform that has been devised with care leavers and has instant translation capability and updates



What can you contribute ?

- Councillors and Officers to be aware, curious and proud Corporate Parents
- Corporate Parents and partners to be aspirational, creative and contribute

Could you be part of the Corporate Parenting Board to lead and create our vision ?

Could you be part of an operational group to deliver that vision ?

Could you help us celebrate our children in care and care leavers ?

Could you offer experiences or support to our care leavers ?

