

<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>17 JULY 2018</b>
<b>SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

## **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To scrutinise implementation of the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 relating to care leavers to ensure that care leavers are appropriately supported.

## **2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) review the extent to which the local authority is meeting the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 relating to care leavers; and
  - b) identify if any further scrutiny is required and, if so, the focus of that scrutiny.

## **3 Background information**

- 3.1 During 2017 the Committee reviewed the local authority's progress in responding to the findings of the Ofsted inspection of children's social care services relating to support for care leavers. The Committee welcomed the independent review that had been undertaken and the work to implement processes and policies to ensure the most vulnerable young people who lose touch with the service are identified early and to locate young people and attempt to re-engage them; and to put in place a 'Keep in Touch' protocol. The Committee acknowledged the challenges in continuing to engage with all care leavers, particularly those who don't want to stay in touch, but felt that it was important for appropriate support to be available.
- 3.2 The Government's 2016 Keep on Caring Strategy and the Children and Social Work Act 2017 extended the support available for care leavers so the Committee wanted to look at how the requirements of this Act and the associated national Keep on Caring strategy were being implemented locally.
- 3.3 The Keep on Caring strategy set out a vision for reform of support for care leavers based on innovation, system reform and the embedding of corporate parenting responsibility across society. It set out the intention

that the State, as corporate parents, will support care leavers to achieve 5 key outcomes and set out the actions to support this:

- all young people leaving care should be better prepared and supported to live independently
- improved access to education, employment and training
- care leavers should experience stability in their lives and feel safe and secure
- improved access to health support
- care leavers should achieve financial stability

- 3.4 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 extended support for care leavers by outlining in law what it means for a local authority to be a good corporate parent; giving care leavers access to their personal advisers until the age of 25 regardless of whether they intend to pursue education or training and placing a duty on the local authority to carry out an assessment of the young person's needs and to provide the necessary advice and support; and placing a duty on local authorities to consult on and then publish a local offer for care leavers providing information about services which the local authority offers to assist care leavers in preparing for adulthood and independent living – both those that the authority is legally obligated to provide such as housing support, and universal services such as careers advice. The offer can also include relevant services provided by other organisations.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Progress in implementing the national 'Keep on Caring' Strategy and development of a local offer for care leavers

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 Children and Social Work Act 2017

HM Government Keep on Caring Strategy: Supporting Young People from Care to Independence July 2016

Ofsted report of Nottingham City Council Inspection of Children's Social Care Services (pilot inspection) 2017

Reports to and minutes of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 21 March and 19 September 2017

## **7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

## **8 Contact information**

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer  
[jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)  
0115 8764315