

Corporate Parenting Panel

25 January 2019

Supporting Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training



Report of Linda Bailey, Strategic Lead: Progression and Learning, Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To update members of the Corporate Parenting Panel on support available to Care Leavers to enable them to progress into Education, Employment and Training.

Executive summary

- 2 Positive progress is being made to support more Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training. This is as a result of support provided through the DurhamWorks Programme working in partnership with the Young People's Service, the development of a Durham County Council Pathway for Young People, as well as a number of measures to support Care Leavers into Durham County Council Apprenticeships.
- 3 This report contains the latest performance data in relation to the participation of Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training.
- 4 Future action that is required to further increase the number of Care Leavers in education, employment or training is also identified.

Recommendation

- 5 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to:
 - (a) Note the information contained in this report and the presentation that will be given at the meeting.
 - (b) Request any additional information required in relation to Education, Employment and Training opportunities for Care Leavers.

Background

- 6 At the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting on 25 January, a presentation will be made to highlight the positive progress that is being made to support more Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training, which will include:
- (a) An update on the DurhamWorks Programme;
 - (b) Examples of opportunities that are being developed within Durham County Council, including the implementation of a Pathway to support our Care Leavers;
 - (c) Performance data in relation to Care Leavers accessing Education, Employment or Training;
 - (d) Future plans to support Care Leavers into education, employment or training.

DurhamWorks Programme

- 7 As highlighted in a previous report and presentation (26 January 2018), additional support for Care Leavers has been delivered through the DurhamWorks Programme. This is a European funded, Durham County Council led partnership project that supports young people aged 16-24 who are unemployed. The Local Authority has been successful in securing additional funding to extend DurhamWorks until July 2021.
- 8 As a result, more Care Leavers will benefit from additional resources, including: wrap-a-round support from a Specialist Progression Advisor; the opportunity to undertake bespoke activities to motivate and prepare them for sustained progression; as well as a 'Learning, Working and Earning' Grant for businesses to support the employment of young people – including Care Leavers.
- 9 Since its inception, 390 young people who have been supported by the DurhamWorks Programme have identified themselves as being Looked After or a Care Leaver. Of these, 160 young people have completed the Programme, with 134 young people progressing into a positive Education, Employment or Training destination – a rate of 83.8%.

Durham County Council Pathway for Young People

- 10 A new pathway has been developed, to provide more opportunities for Care Leavers within Durham County Council, including work experience placements, Traineeships, and Apprenticeships.

- 11 A key concept of the pathway is to support progression. For example, a Care Leaver could begin their journey by initially engaging in a work experience placement in a specific occupational area of interest. This could lead to a Traineeship and, after successfully completing this opportunity, they could then progress into an Apprenticeship, leading to permanent employment within Durham County Council.
- 12 The Pathway concept is currently being piloted within Direct Services. Two young people are undertaking extended work experience, with permission from Jobcentre Plus, whilst undertaking training with the Adult Learning and Skills Service to enhance their English and maths skills. In addition, a further two Care Leavers are due to commence work experience as Highway Operatives in January 2019 leading to a traineeship and, hopefully an Apprenticeship.

Intermediate Labour Market

- 13 Durham County Council is working in partnership with Groundwork to provide employment opportunities for Care Leavers on a Clean and Green Team for a period of one year. Five Care Leavers commenced work in July 2018 and continue in employment. Financial support from Direct Services, Progression and Learning (DurhamWorks) and Groundwork will enable this to continue for a period of 12 months with extensive support being provided to ensure a positive progression for participants at the end of the programme.

Measures to support Care Leavers into Apprenticeships within Durham County Council

- 14 A number of measures have been put in place to support Care Leavers into Apprenticeship opportunities within Durham County Council. These include guaranteeing an interview for all Care Leavers who meet the essential criteria for the role; informing relevant services e.g. Young People's Service (Children and Young People's Services), if a Care Leaver applies for an Apprenticeship, to enable them to support and advocate on behalf of the young person; as well as advising lead officers, who are undertaking recruitment, of their responsibilities in relation to giving Care Leavers due consideration at interviews.
- 15 The next step which is currently being explored is for a proportion of Apprenticeship opportunities being ring-fenced for Care Leavers. Whilst this proposal is being developed, agreement is being sought for an Apprenticeship opportunity working within the Young People's Service to be ring-fenced.

Performance Data

- 16 The Local Authority collects different types of performance data in relation to the participation in Education, Employment or Training of young people, including Care Leavers, as required by the government.
- 17 The Progression and Learning Service (Children and Young People's Services) supports the delivery of a number of statutory responsibilities on behalf of the Local Authority to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in Education, Employment or Training. In order to meet these responsibilities, the Local Authority is required to track and report the destinations of young people to the Department of Education on a monthly basis.

The following table shows the latest performance data for 16-17 year olds who are resident in County Durham, compared to the same period last year. This includes the proportion of young people participating in RPA (Raising the Participation Age) compliant Learning; the proportion of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training); and the proportion of young people whose destination is Not Known to the Local Authority.

	November 2018		November 2017	
	All 16-17	LAC/CL	All 16-17	LAC/CL
Total Cohort ¹	9,769	113	10,384	136
Participating in Learning ¹	90.4%	76.1% (86)	90.2%	75.0% (102)
NEET ¹	4.4%	15.9% (18)	4.8%	16.2% (22)
Not Known ¹	2.8%	1.8% (2)	2.4%	6.6% (9)

¹Local Authority CCIS, Department for Education, November 2018 and November 2017.

- 18 To be identified as participating in RPA compliant learning, a young person must be engaged on one of the following routes:
- Full-time study in a School, College or with a Training Provider (minimum 540 directed learning hours);
 - Full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with part-time education or training leading to relevant regulated qualifications;
 - An Apprenticeship, Traineeship or Supported Internship.

- 19 The Looked After and Permanence Service tracks and reports on the destinations of Care Leavers aged 17-18 and 19-21 to the Department for Education on a quarterly basis. This captures the destination of Care Leavers at the time of their birthday and the definition used to identify a Care Leaver as participating in Education, Employment or Training is broader than that used to identify a young person participating in RPA compliant learning.
- 20 The following table shows the latest performance data for 17-18 and 19-21 Care Leavers, comparing 2018-19 quarter 1 (April – June) and quarter 2 (July – September). There are currently 20 young people in Higher Education, who receive support from the Young People’s Service and their institution.

	2018-19 Q1		2018-19 Q2	
	Care Leaver 17-18	Care Leaver 19-21	Care Leaver 17-18	Care Leaver 19-21
Total Cohort ¹	68	161	85	161
Participating in EET ¹	85.3% (58)	55.3% (89)	85.9% (73)	51.6% (83)
NEET ¹	11.8% (8)	36.0% (58)	10.6% (9)	36.0% (58)

¹Durham County Council: Q1 April – June 2018; Q2 July September 2018.

Future Plans to Support Care Leavers

- 21 A number of actions have been identified within the Education, Employment and Training Plan for Care Leavers to further increase the proportion of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training, some of which are referred to above:
- Expand the DCC Pathway for Care Leavers into other Directorates.
 - Introduce pre-Apprenticeship training and support for Care Leavers participating on DurhamWorks to enable them to maximise their opportunity of being successful in applying for DCC Apprenticeships.
 - Explore the potential to ring-fence a proportion of DCC Apprenticeship opportunities for Care Leavers.
 - Review the Education, Employment and Training aspect of the Local Offer in other Local Authority areas, in order to identify any opportunities for additional support.

- Work more closely with the North East Raising Aspirations Partnership in order to encourage more Care Leavers to take up opportunities to learn about Higher Education.
- Investigate the feasibility of introducing the Stepladder of Achievement Programme in County Durham. The aim of the Programme is to provide both the life skills and financial resources in order to enable Care Leavers to achieve their full potential as adults, including enhancing their employment prospects.

Conclusion

22 This report has highlighted the progress that has been made during the previous twelve months to support Care Leavers into Education, Employment or Training. For example, a significant number of young people are benefitting from DurhamWorks support and more are beginning to access opportunities within Durham County Council as a result of a new Pathway for Young People. However, it is recognised that more work is required to further increase the proportion of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training and, to this end, a number of priorities have been identified.

Recommendation

- 23 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to:
- (a) Note the information contained in this report and the presentation that will be given at the meeting.
 - (b) Request any additional information required in relation to Education, Employment and Training opportunities for Care Leavers.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.