

Corporate Parenting Panel

31 January 2020

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 A number of actions have been undertaken in order to support more Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training. These include transition support provided to Care Leavers during their final year at school, support provided through the DurhamWorks Programme, the introduction of a Durham County Council Pathway for Young People, as well as further measures to support Care Leavers into Durham County Council Apprenticeships.
- 3 Outcomes from these actions are closely monitored and this report contains the latest performance data in relation to the participation of Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training. This report also contains a summary of future priorities to support more Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training.

Recommendation

- 4 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

- 5 At the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting on 31 January, a presentation will be made to highlight the actions that are being undertaken to support more Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training, which will include:
- (a) An update on the DurhamWorks Programme;
 - (b) Measures that are in place to support Care Leavers into Durham County Council Apprenticeships;
 - (c) Performance data in relation to Care Leavers accessing Education, Employment and Training;
 - (d) Future priorities to support Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training.

Transition Support

- 6 In conjunction with support that Care Leavers receive in relation to their academic attainment, a range of other measures are in place in order to support their transition into post-16 Education, Employment and Training. These include the offer of individual careers guidance with a Specialist Progression Adviser; the opportunity to undertake work experience in occupational areas that are of interest to them through the Teenagers to Work programme; as well as the opportunity to meet and discuss their plans with a variety of opportunity providers at an annual Careers Event. Upon completion of their final year in school, Care Leavers are enrolled onto the DurhamWorks Programme.

DurhamWorks Programme

- 7 As highlighted in a previous report and presentation (25 January 2019), additional support for Care Leavers is provided through the DurhamWorks Programme. This European funded, Durham County Council led partnership project ensures that Care Leavers can 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 employment; as well as a DurhamWorks Grant that is available to SME businesses to support the employment of young people – including Care Leavers.
- 8 Since its inception, 562 young people who have been supported by the DurhamWorks Programme have identified themselves as being Looked After or a Care Leaver. Of these, 193 young people have completed the Programme, with 142 young people progressing into an Education, Employment or Training destination – a rate of 73.6%.

Re-engagement Programme

- 9 A new re-engagement programme has been designed for young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training). The programme provides intensive support across a twelve week period to enable young people to work towards participation in Education, Employment or Training. This is being utilised for identified Care Leavers who, at this stage, are unlikely to sustain participation in a mainstream Education, Employment or Training destination.

New European Funded Programmes

- 10 The current DurhamWorks Programme is funded until July 2021. However, new European funded programmes (DurhamDirections and DurhamEnable) are due to commence in 2020, subject to approval, which will prioritise support for Care Leavers.
- 11 DurhamDirections is a £10m programme that will support over 6,000 young people aged 15 – 24 who are at risk of becoming NEET / are NEET between August 2020 and December 2023. This will ensure that Care Leavers receive wrap-a-round support from a Specialist Progression Advisor to make a sustained transition into Education, Employment and Training.
- 12 DurhamEnable (Supported Employment Service) is a £3.6m programme that will support over 900 individuals who are aged 18 and above and have learning, physical and mental health barriers to employment between July 2020 and December 2023. Care Leavers who meet the eligibility criteria for the Service will receive support from a DurhamEnable Key Worker.

Durham County Council Pathway for Young People

- 13 Work is continuing to further embed the Pathway for Young People, which was developed to provide more opportunities for Care Leavers within Durham County Council - including work experience placements, Traineeships and Apprenticeships.
- 14 The Pathway was originally piloted within Direct Services, who provided work experience and employment opportunities for Care Leavers within their teams. Some of these young people have progressed into positive destinations and discussions are taking place to establish more opportunities for Care Leavers during 2020.

Measures to support Care Leavers into Durham County Council Apprenticeships

- 15 Further action has been undertaken to enhance the measures that are in place to support Care Leavers into Durham County Council Apprenticeships. For example, it has been agreed that six Apprenticeship opportunities will be ring-fenced specifically for Care Leavers as part of Durham County Council's 2020 recruitment programme. A DurhamWorks Delivery Partner (Citizens Advice County Durham) will also deliver a pre-Apprenticeship programme to Care Leavers, in order to support them through the application process and prepare them for subsequent interviews.
- 16 Five Care Leavers were offered opportunities during Durham County Council's 2019 Apprenticeship recruitment programme. This included one opportunity within the Young People's Service (Children and Young People's Services) that was ring-fenced specifically for a Care Leaver.

Performance Data

- 17 The Local Authority, through the Progression and Learning Service (Children and Young People's Services), collects and reports the destinations of all young people aged 16-17 to the Department for Education on a monthly basis. This includes young people who are participating in Education, Employment or Training (EET); young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET); as well as young people whose destination is Not Known to the Local Authority.
- 18 The following table shows the latest performance data for young people aged 16-17, compared to the same period in 2018 and 2017 respectively.

	2019 (December)		2018 (December)		2017 (December)	
	All 16-17	LAC/CL	All 16-17	LAC/CL	All 16-17	LAC/CL
Total Cohort ¹	10,250	133	9,803	116	10,364	138
Participating in EET ¹	90.8%	68.4% (91)	90.7%	73.3% (85)	90.5%	73.9% (102)
Re-engagement ¹	1.5%	11.3% (15)	0.2%	0.9% (1)	0.2%	0.7% (1)
Employment without Training/Part Time Study ¹	2.2%	2.3% (3)	2.1%	3.4% (4)	2.3%	1.4% (2)
Total EET¹	94.5%	82.0% (109)	93.0%	77.6% (90)	93.1%	76.1% (105)
NEET ¹	4.0%	17.3% (23)	4.7%	20.7% (24)	5.1%	18.8% (26)
Not Known ¹	1.4%	0.8% (1)	2.3%	1.7% (2)	1.8%	5.1% (7)
Combined NEET and Not Known¹	5.5%	18.0% (24)	7.0%	22.4% (26)	6.9%	23.9% (33)

¹Local Authority Client Caseload Information System.

- 19 The number and proportion of 16-17 year old Care Leavers who are NEET or whose destination is Not Known has decreased compared to the same period in 2018 and 2017 respectively. This is due, in part, to an increase in the number and proportion of Care Leavers who are undertaking a re-engagement activity (see paragraph 9).
- 20 The Looked After and Permanence Service (Children and Young People's Services) also tracks and reports on the destinations of Care Leavers aged 17-18 and 19-21 to the Department for Education and comparative data is published on an annual basis. This data captures the destinations of Care Leavers at the time of their birthdays.
- 21 The following table shows the latest performance data for 17-18 year old and 19-21 year old Care Leavers, compared to the previous two years.

	2018-2019		2017-2018		2016-2017	
	CL 17-18	CL 19-21	CL 17-18	CL 19-21	CL 17-18	CL 19-21
Total Cohort ¹	79	156	62	160	60	175
Participating in EET ¹	61% (48)	51% (80)	82% (51)	59% (95)	84% (50)	62% (110)
NEET ¹	C ²	38% (60)	C ²	32% (51)	C ²	29% (51)

¹Department for Education: Children Looked After in England (including Adoption), year ending 31st March.

² C denotes that figure has not been published in order to protect confidentiality.

- 22 The proportion of 19-21 year old Care Leavers who were Participating in Education, Employment or Training, according to the latest performance data (51%), was greater than the regional average (50%) but lower than the national average (52%). The proportion of 19-21 year old Care Leavers who were NEET (38%) was lower than both the regional (45%) and national (39%) averages.
- 23 The proportion of 17-18 year old Care Leavers who were Participating in Education, Employment or Training, according to the latest performance data (61%) was lower than both the regional (63%) and national (64%) averages.

Future Priorities to Support Care Leavers

- 24 In order to support more Care Leavers to make a successful transition into post-16 Education, Employment and Training, the following priorities have been identified:
- Provide pre-Apprenticeship training and support for Care Leavers, to enable them to maximise their opportunity of being successful in applying for Durham County Council Apprenticeships.
 - Establish closer links with the North East Raising Aspirations Partnership, in order to encourage more Care Leavers and Foster Carers to take up opportunities to learn more about Higher Education.
 - Prepare for the introduction of the DurhamDirections Programme and DurhamEnable Programme to ensure that there is continued support for Care Leavers into Education, Employment and Training, including specialist support for Care Leavers who have specific learning, physical and mental health barriers to employment.

Conclusion

- 25 This report has highlighted the actions undertaken to support more Care Leavers into Education, Employment or Training, including measures to support Care Leavers into Durham County Council Apprenticeships. However, it is recognised that further work is required and, to this end, the report has also highlighted a number of future priorities that aim to build upon the progress that has already been made.

Recommendation

- 26 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

Author(s)

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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.