
**Report of Sharon Davey, Strategic Manager, Children in Our Care,
Children's Social Care, Durham County Council**

Electoral division(s) affected:

None.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report outlines the statement of purpose regarding the Care Leavers covenant.

Executive summary

- 2 The Covenant is a promise made by the private, public, or voluntary organisations to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them to live independently.

The Covenant have five core outcomes:

- (a) Independent living;
 - (b) Employment, Education and Training;
 - (c) Safety and Security;
 - (d) Health;
 - (e) Finance.
- 3 The covenant is a nationwide organisation who work with business, social enterprises, and local authorities to promote the rights of care leavers and build structures around them that can promote and strengthen their journey into adulthood. The aim of working with the covenant is to build value to our local offer within Durham.

Recommendations

- 4 Members of the corporate parenting panel are recommended to:
 - (a) Note the contents of this report;
 - (b) Consider if DCC will become a signatory to the care leavers covenant.

Background

- 5 The care leavers service has been working with the covenant for approximately six months – we have established a positive working relationship, through this we have been establishing out key priority areas, such as enhancing our offer around education, training, and employment, ensuring that our young people have the financial offers that are available.
- 6 A report from the covenant is attached as Appendix 2, outlining further details.

Conclusion

- 7 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel will understand the covenant, their values, and their resources.
- 8 We are proposing that Durham County Council become signatory to the covenant so that we can continue to develop those relationships and utilise their expertise in working with partners and business, so that we can expand our offer to our care experienced young people.

Authors

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

We are bound by duties under the Children & Social Work Act / Children's Act to act in the best interests of children and young people.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Young People's Service provides care and support to young people who identify as transgender, this forms 1% of the overall service group.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

Children and young people have access to the DCC complaints process

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

The authority has a statutory duty to provide personal advisors to care experienced young people.

Accommodation

Should children and young people come into the care of the Local Authority, there is a need to ensure there is sufficient suitable placements.

Risk

The risk of not providing the services and supports required by young people who have care leaver status is that they could be at risk of harm, either immediately or as a result of a failure to identify their needs and best support them to achieve their potential.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: Title Care Leavers Covenant

Attached as a separate document