



Report of Rachel Farnham, Head of Children's Social Care, Durham County Council

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report is to explain the My Plan, My Future direct working tool to members of the Corporate Parenting Panel and ask for agreement that this is used as part of the pathway review process for Care Leavers.

Executive Summary

- 2 As part of the Regional Care Leavers Board work, a similar direct work tool was shared by another Local Authority. The Care Leavers Service in County Durham have adapted this to use within County Durham.
- 3 Young people from the Children in Care Council were consulted during the initial preparation process and very much led how this tool would look. They wanted scaling and tick boxes so that they had a quick way to show their views.
- 4 The tool has been developed to fit well with the Care Leaver Development Plan which seeks to ensure we understand and develop networks for young people and ensure we support them to meet their goals.
- 5 It covers the areas of the young person's life we would want to review with them.
- 6 It allows the review of the young person's Pathway Plan to be led by them and evidence of this direct work to be on the young person's file.
- 7 The tool is available to use online or in a paper copy, whichever way the young person chooses.
- 8 Young Person Advisor's (YPA's) have used this tool with young people in their direct work sessions and the feedback from both YPA's and young people has been positive.

Recommendations

- 9 Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to:
 - (a) consider this direct working tool developed alongside young people; *and*
 - (b) agree that this tool can be used for pathway plan reviews for young people who have left care.

Background

- 10 As part of the Regional Care Leavers Board a version of this tool is used by another local authority and was shared as good practice.
- 11 Since September 2023, the Care Leavers Service in Durham has developed this tool with young people and the support of our communications team.
- 12 The tool has been used by a limited number of YPA's with young people in order for us to gain feedback.

Main implications

- 13 We are able to ensure that young people give their views in a way that they feel suits them and that this is easy to do and to understand.
- 14 The young person can fully review their own plans and set their own goals and there is evidence of this on their file.

Conclusion

- 15 The My Plan, My Future Direct Working Tool has been developed alongside young people and is proving to be an effective tool in ensuring their voice is heard and they lead their own Pathway Planning.

Author

Lesley Baldry

Tel: 07717541944

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Finance

The only financial implication is the printing cost of the leaflets.

Consultation

Children have developed this and been consulted throughout to ensure they are happy with the finished product and are comfortable with using the tool.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The tool can easily be used by most young people and will be translated for young people where English is not their first language.

Climate Change

The impact on climate change would be the printing of the leaflets however an online copy will be used whenever possible.

Human Rights

The Right to Life is supported by this tool as it allows us to understand how a young person feels about their own life and set goals for the future.

Crime and Disorder

We know that supporting and understanding young people well can reduce them being involved in criminal activity into adulthood.

Staffing

The tool will be used by the young person's YPA alongside the young person.

Accommodation

No additional accommodation is required.

Risk

The tool will be used when the young person is emotionally able to do this.

Procurement

No implications.

Appendix 2: My Plan My Future Leaflet (PROOF)

Separate document for information