

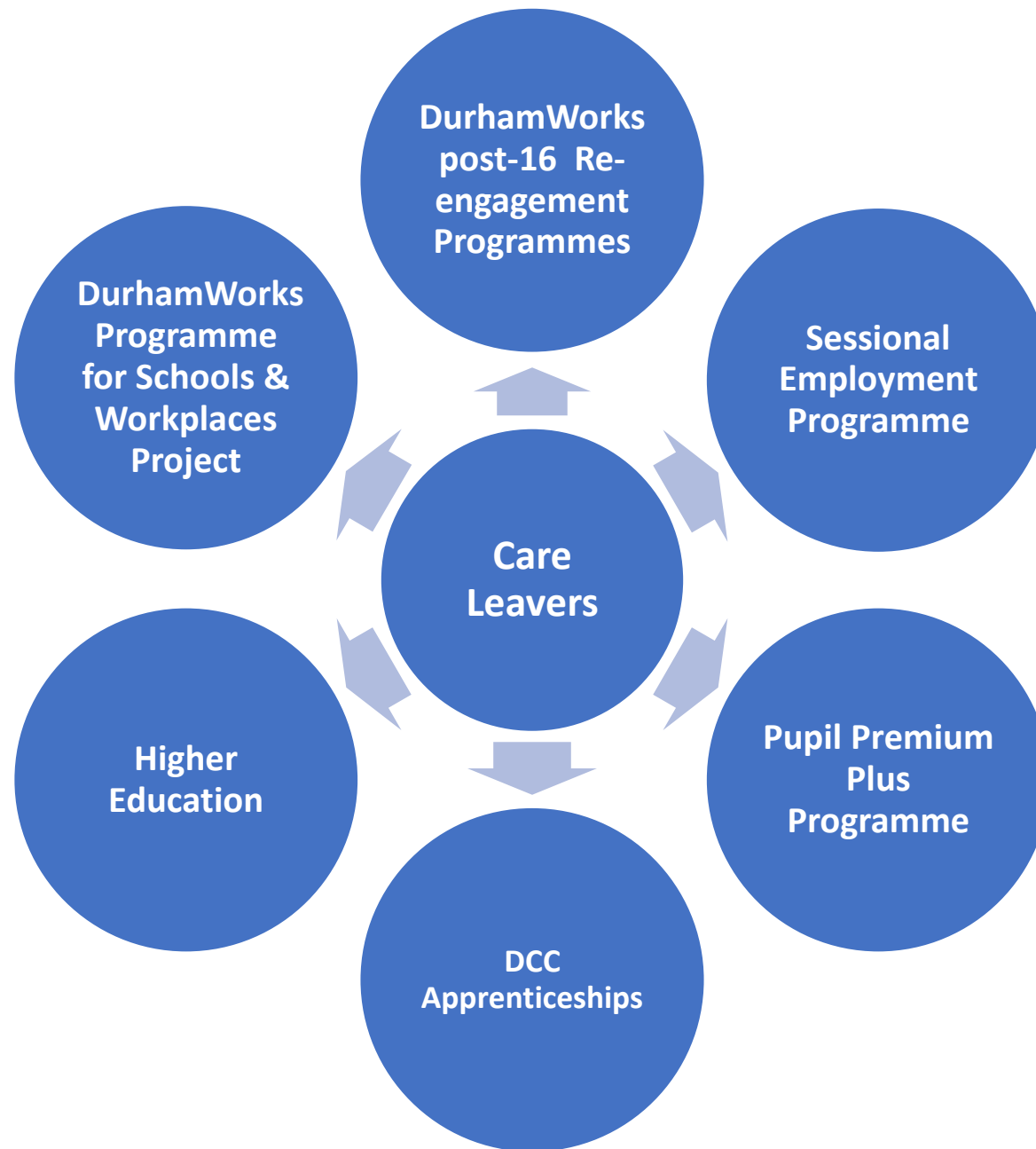
Supporting Care Leavers into Education, Employment or Training

Helen Radcliffe - Strategic Manager: Progression &
Learning

Corporate Parenting Panel

17 January 2025





Post-16 Care Leaver Pathway

➤ **Sessional Employment Programme**

- Sessional Employment Programme offers Care Leavers paid work experience placements within DCC.
- Work placements are identified which meet the talents, interests and aspirations of each Care Leaver.
- Since October 2021, 35 Care Leavers have accessed paid work experience placements.

➤ **Pupil Premium Plus Post-16 Programme**

- Dedicated support for Care Leavers studying at an FE college, school sixth form or who are in training.
- A financial incentive of £100 or £80 per term depending on attendance.
- 142 Care Leavers supported during 2023-24 academic year.
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children undertaking ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses at college are supported by the Programme.

The Sessional Employment Programme



- Stephen is a Care Leaver who was studying at New College Durham.
- He became interested in the programme to improve his chances of future employment and test his career aspirations.
- A placement was sourced (with the help of Volunteer Culture and Sport) at the Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre for one day per week to fit with his studies.
- Stephen was encouraged to complete a Lifeguard qualification after doing very well, with funding sourced through DurhamWorks.
- On leaving college and seeking employment, Stephen applied for a position (at the same Leisure Centre) as a Leisure Attendant.
- With support from DurhamWorks with his application and interview, Stephen was successful and has subsequently settled in well into his new job.

Post-16 Care Leaver Pathway

➤ **Apprenticeships**

- In 2024, 2 Care Leavers started a DCC Apprenticeship.
- A collective effort is required to increase the number of ring-fenced Apprenticeships and work experience opportunities for Care Leavers within the Council.

➤ **Higher Education**

- A Young People's Adviser (Children's Social Care) supports Care Leavers to manage their transition to university and maintains contact during their studies.
- Help is provided with applying for student finance, finding accommodation, staying put arrangements during holidays, graduation costs and next steps after University.
- 36 Care Leavers currently studying at universities across the UK. Courses include Law, History, Computing and Sports Coaching.
- 10 Care Leavers graduated in 2024, including 2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people.

Proposals to enhance support for Care Leavers

- Extend the Sessional Employment Programme to broaden the range of paid work experience placements available by utilising anchor institutions e.g. NHS.
- Collaborate with learning providers & HR colleagues to develop pathways into DCC entry level job roles.
- Improve the tracking of destinations and offer of EET support to 19-21 year old Care Leavers.
- Utilise funding from UKSPF for a pilot project to support Care Leavers living in supported accommodation to access opportunities in EET.
- Create a renewed focus across DCC to increase ring-fenced apprenticeship and work experience opportunities available for Care Leavers.