



Author/Lead Officer of Report: *(Insert name and job title of officer)*

Tel: *(Insert contact number of author)*

Report of: *Jayne Ludlam*

Report to:

Date of Decision: *12th December 2018*

Subject: *Sheffield Local Offer for Children & Young People Leaving Care*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000		<input type="checkbox"/>		
- Affects 2 or more Wards		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Children and Families				
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? Children, Young People and Family Support				
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 432				
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<p><i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i></p>				

Purpose of Report:

The report asks for cabinet to celebrate, support and endorse the publication of the ***Sheffield Local Offer for Children and Young People Leaving Care***. Whilst there is a statutory duty to publish under Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, we ask that this be welcomed as part of ensuring every Sheffield Care Leaver is able to achieve their full potential and give them the best possible start towards adulthood.

Recommendations:**Cabinet is recommended to:**

Endorse the publication of the ***Sheffield Local Offer for Children and Young People Leaving Care***.

Background Papers:

Sheffield Local Offer for Children and Young People Leaving Care

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: <i>Andy Bray</i>
	Legal: <i>Louise Bate</i>
	Equalities: <i>Bashir Khan</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	EMT member who approved submission: <i>Jayne Ludlam</i>
3	Cabinet Member consulted: <i>Cllr Jackie Drayton</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.

Lead Officer Name: <i>Paul Dempsey</i>	Job Title: <i>Assistant Director Provider Services</i>
Date: <i>28th November 2018</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 The Sheffield Local Offer for Children & Young People Leaving Care is to be published under Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which requires each local authority to consult on and publish a Local Offer for its care leavers.
- 1.2 The Act states that a Local Offer should provide information about the services and support that is available to care leavers from the local authority and their partner agencies, and include information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide.
- 1.3 The Sheffield Local Offer draws together all these services and outlines them under 7 key headings: -
- Advice and Support from a Personal Advisor – this details what a young person can expect from this relationship.
 - Health, Wellbeing and Staying Safe – details how the Leaving Care Service can support a young person to access health services.
 - Relationships – focusses on support to maintain existing relationships and how young people can be helped to build and develop social networks.
 - Education, Employment & Training – what the local authority can do to promote these opportunities for young people leaving care.
 - Your Home – what support young people can expect when transitioning to independent living, including the housing options available to them.
 - Money Matters – details support and guidance available to young people to manage their finances.
 - Getting my Voice Heard – identifying how young people can be involved in informing and developing services that impact on them and support their wider engagement in society.
- 1.4 The Leaving Care Service formed a Steering Group to support the development of Sheffield's offer to Care Leavers jointly chaired by the Director of Children and Families and the Director of Housing and

Neighbourhoods Service. This group has engaged partners across the authority to build and develop the offer for Care Leavers achieving commitment to the full offer that is presented for Cabinet endorsement.

- 1.5 The Local Offer does not significantly or materially change the current offer to care leavers, but provides an offer that draws together all care leaver entitlements into an easy format that is accessible to all care leavers in the city.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 The publication of the Local Offer should impact on all of the key priorities for the city. Care Leavers are more likely to have less favourable outcomes than their peers; the publication of the offer will support this cohort to access the help and support available to them and help tackle the inequality they may face.

- 2.2 To develop the offer the Leaving Care Service has consulted with Sheffield Care Leavers and the Care Leavers Union. This consultation has clearly informed the development of the offer and shows that we are in touch with the cohort and have listened and responded to the needs of this group of young people.

The publication of the offer gives the opportunity to clearly communicate care leaver entitlements and allow young people to clearly see what they help and support they are able to access in the city.

- 2.3 Care leavers are more likely to have adverse financial outcomes in later life. Through the offer, care leavers should be clearer about their entitlements as part of the requirements of the local authority is to ensure that all care leavers have access to a Personal Advisor. This person will provide advice and guidance on financial management as well as support with benefits claims.

- 2.4 Care leavers are more likely to have less favourable outcomes in later life, are less likely to be employed, and are more likely to be at risk of substance abuse and mental health issues. The published offer will detail health support available to care leavers and pathways to access services. Having these available in a clear and easily accessible format will benefit care leavers in the shorter term and underpin longer term health outcomes.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers.

Consultation has taken three forms: -

1. Initial workshops with Care leavers during Summer 2017
2. Sheffield Care Leaver Union feedback on local offer headings
3. Wider Care Leaver consultation on draft offer contents and format

3.2 Initial workshops with care leavers in Summer 2017 identified key priority areas for young people and informed the focus of the Steering Group's development of the offer. Partner agencies have been involved in the consultation and informed on the offer development via this channel.

3.3 A session with Sheffield Care Leavers' Union was facilitated by the Children's Involvement Team and participants were offered free reign to suggest things they want included in the offer.

Feedback concluded that the offer included things they wanted to see, and that they were pleased with the developments.

The Steering Group continues to work to achieve the further aspirations the Leaving Care Service have for inclusion in the local offer.

3.4 The draft local offer was circulated to Care Leavers for feedback via their Personal Advisors and thirty three young people responded. We asked care leavers to provide feedback in the following areas: -

- Format for publishing the offer
- Whether the offer provided the right amount of information
- Whether there was anything else they would like to be included

3.5 The draft local offer has been developed in conjunction with young people and partner agencies and clearly defines the leaving care services currently on offer as well as signposting to other resources available.

Feedback has been and will continue to be used to develop the service and its offer to young people leaving care. The offer will not be a static document and will be regularly reviewed.

Next steps will include the development of a webpage which will allow us to clearly communicate updates to young people in a timely manner.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

4.1.1 Decisions need to take into account the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This is the duty to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The Equality Act 2010 identifies the following groups as a protected characteristic: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and highlights the Leaving Care Service conducted a consultation with Care Leavers to ensure that the published offer for Sheffield meets the needs of care leavers in Sheffield as far as service budgets will practically allow.

The consultation detailed what is currently available to care leavers in Sheffield through the council as well as our partner agencies. It asked care leavers about our proposed offer in: Health and Wellbeing; Relationships; Education and training; Employment; Accommodation and Participation in society.

The current proposal does not significantly or materially change the current offer to care leavers, but produces an offer that draws together all care leaver entitlements into an easy format that is accessible to all care leavers in the city.

Throughout the consultation phase, analysis will be required to fully understand the requirements of the cohort and where appropriate the personal advisor will access additional support for the young person.

Impacts have been identified across most of the characteristics assessed, these impacts are positive in the instance of pregnancy and maternity; VCF; partners; poverty and health. All other impacts are neutral.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are additional costs being incurred to deliver this offer. This includes 8.6 additional FTE PA posts and results in costs of £360k over and above the budget. This additional pressure is included in the services Strengthening Families Plan.

It is assumed that the other initiatives within the offer, will be cost neutral.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The Local Authority has a duty to consult on and publish a Local Offer for Care Leavers under section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

4.4 Other Implications

- 4.4.1 There are no other implications.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Not Applicable

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Explain why this is the preferred option and outline the intended outcomes.)

- 6.1 Supporting the recommendations in this report will ensure that the local authority meets their Statutory Duty to publish a Local Offer for Care Leavers.

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