

## **Care Leaver Local Offer – Consultation with Lancashire's Care Leavers**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 has introduced three provisions, placing new duties on Local Authorities. The three provisions are:

- Corporate Parenting Principles
- A Local Offer for Care Leavers; and
- Extending Personal Advisor support to all Care Leavers to age 25

### **Implementation in Lancashire**

The Department for Education guidance clearly states that 'Relevant Persons' should be consulted on the Care Leaver offer. At the core of this are Care Leavers themselves, and Lancashire have run various consultation opportunities for care leavers to have a say about the local offer. The consultation is aimed at children and young people entitled to leaving care support, defined within the legal framework of the care leaver regulations as Eligible, Relevant, Former Relevant and Qualifying young people. It is essential that Care Leavers have an opportunity to co-design the Local Offer, and we have five care leaver apprentice's that are currently involved in a task and finish group with the Communication/Design team.

### **Care Leaver Consultation**

Two methods of consultation:

1. Care Leaver Local Offer consultation day at Lancaster University on 15 February 2018. This event was attended by up to 30 young people who took part in three workshops, with themes of:
  - i) What do you think should go in a local offer?
  - ii) What are your priorities over the next 2-3 years?
  - iii) How can your council show it listens to you and involves you in decisions?
2. Care Leaver Local Offer Questionnaire. Over seven weeks Care Leavers had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire through an on-line link. This was accessed via a link on The Youth Zone. Young people were encouraged to complete this either by Social Workers, Personal Advisers, carers and at the locality care leaver groups and the care leaver forum and LINX.

### **Feedback from Care Leavers**

This can be found at Annex 1.

## **What are we doing with the feedback?**

The PowerPoint presented to the Corporate Parenting Board at its meeting on 22 May 2018, by Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick, Ralph Rushworth and Jane Hylton is a snapshot of what we felt were the most important quotes from the care leavers under the subject areas of Health and Wellbeing, Accommodation, Education, Employment and Training, Participation etc.

## **Next Steps**

For the consultation and feedback to be effective for a meaningful local offer, the information needs to be fed back to Senior Leadership Team, elected members and district Chief Executives.

- Two care leavers that are working on the local offer have so far presented the findings to the Purposeful Practice Board, attended by the Chief Executive. This will be further rolled out to the localities and will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board on 22 May 2018.
- Apprentices update care leavers on the progress of the local offer via social media, LINX, Care leaver forum and the locality care leaver groups.
- Consultation findings have been fed back to the Local Offer Task and Finish group-multi agency representation.
- Production of a young person's friendly animation on 'What is a Care Leaver Local Offer', due to be finalised by mid-June.
- Apprentices will arrange co-design workshops with the locality care leaver groups

It is envisaged that the Local Offer will be published by 1 October 2018, however it's important to point out that it will always be evolving with information added to it over time.

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