

Action Plan: Joint Scrutiny Review on Transition from Leaving Care to Adult Life
Up dated June 2010

Recommendation	Action(s) to Address	Lead Officer	Timescale	Success Measure(s)	Current Position
1. That the Council's specific responsibility for care leavers should be borne in mind in seeking to address the issue of affordable housing in the County	Review the Home Point Allocation Policy and ensure it continues to incorporate the Move on Protocol for care leavers	Housing Needs and Development Manager	April 2010	Allocation Policy reviewed and published	Allocations Policy has been reviewed and re-drafted.
				100% of care leavers referred rehoused through Home Point	All care leavers requiring accommodation successfully housed via move-on protocol following aftercare referral
	Review the accommodation needs of care leavers		June 2010	There is sufficient accommodation for Care Leavers to move to	The Youth Homelessness Strategy 2009 – 2012 acknowledges the needs of young people leaving care and the level of demand for accommodation.
					Funding obtained for SHYPP to provide 8 additional supported lodgings and support for 16 & 17 yr olds becoming LA via homeless route
	Review provision of support to ensure care leavers can access services to enable them to maintain their tenancy		March 2009	Review completed	Review completed
					100% of care leavers have access to floating support services

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2. The proposal to establish a Children in Care Council be welcomed and implemented	Establish Children in Care Council	Service Manager (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)	October 2008	Membership identified and Meeting structure established	Membership identified and meeting structure established via corporate parenting strategy. Meetings held monthly since November 2009
				Steering Group established to provide support	Children in Care Interest Group now meeting monthly

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					Corporate Parenting Panel set up and inaugural meeting held April 2010. Quarterly meetings scheduled throughout 2010/11
				CYP see their wishes acted upon /taken into account in service delivery changes appropriately	Issues raised by Children In Care Council discussed at Corporate Parenting Panel held in April 2010. Now a regular agenda item Actions from this take into account their wishes Heads Of Service meet 6 weekly with Children and Young People at Centre 18 to seek their views and use this to inform service development
3. That the provision in the Children and Young Person's Bill for a Virtual Head Teacher for looked after children has merit and should be investigated with a view to implementation in the County	Conduct review of Education Liaison and Support Service (ELSS)	Assistant Director Inclusion and Improvement	October 2010	Report presented to DLT and Cabinet Member for CYP	ELSS moved to Improvement & Inclusion June 2010 Review of ELSS part of wider review of Children & Young People's Directorate. Formal consultation due to be completed and review finalised by October 2010. Review includes Role of Virtual Head
				Decision taken re: Virtual Headteacher and any other service changes required	Review due to be completed by October 2010
4. That mechanisms should be put in place to measure the effectiveness of the social care information technology solution in addressing the concerns about compatibility that have been identified	Implement Frameworki electronic workflow system as part of Integrated Social Care Solution (ISCS) Project Phase 1	Service Manager (Safeguarding and LAC)	November 2008	ICS successfully implemented	ICS Phase 1 implemented
			December 2010	Revised ICS forms fully implemented so ICS is easy and quicker to use and produces user friendly documents	Batch 1 forms installed on live system 14 th June 2010. Now in regular use Batch 2 Released for testing September 2010
	Access to Frameworki given to LAC Health workers		June 2010	LAC Health workers are able to access information and print from Frameworki and be able to input health assessments.	Corporate ICT have now solved issues of linking Council and PCT networks and access was available by end of June 2010

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<p>5. That the need for dedicated health worker resource in care settings for care leavers should be recognised and appropriate provision made</p>	<p>Develop Transition Health Advisor post for care leavers and vulnerable young people</p>	<p>Commissioner for Children and Young People's Services Primary Care Trust</p>	<p>January 2009</p>	<p>Additional post in place providing support to Care Leavers</p>	<p>This post was not created. Instead the activity was incorporated into the LAC nurse functions and by the LAC nurse in the new CAMHS LAC team.</p> <p>There remains a need for this service. Proposal is for a Band 5 nurse to work along side the existing Lead Nurse for Children in Care.</p> <p>LAC nurse progressing this proposal which she plans to present to the next Corporate Parenting Panel in August for their endorsement</p>
	<p>Include funding in 2009/10 Local Development Plan (LDP)</p>	<p>Commissioner for Children and Young People's Services Primary Care Trust</p>	<p>April 2009 (subject to LDP approval)</p>	<p>Funding approved</p>	<p>Funding not approved at that time</p>
				<p>Post established</p>	<p>Funding was not secured at that time</p>
<p>6. That a specific piece of work be commissioned, drawing on best practice, on thresholds for eligibility for adult services (with particular reference to care leavers with additional needs, whether physical disability, learning disability or mental health) to ensure that the needs of young people are being met</p>	<p>Review access to information and advice</p>	<p>Head Of Special Needs (Adult Care)</p>	<p>June 2010</p>	<p>Vulnerable young people not eligible for service receive timely and appropriate signposting</p>	<p>New multiagency transition group set up to look at transitions for vulnerable young people in transition which includes Care Leavers</p> <p>This has met and is due to produce a transition signposting document by September 2010.</p>
	<p>Undertake review of thresholds in context of national review of eligibility criteria</p>	<p>Head of Transformation (Adult Care)</p>	<p>June 2010</p>	<p>Vulnerable young people eligible for service receive timely and appropriate support for their needs</p>	<p>In Herefordshire eligibility for adult social care is currently for those people with critical and substantial needs only and this is in keeping with most councils. However in 2009 the DH consulted on FACS and new guidance is expected in February 2010 with an anticipated greater emphasis on prevention and targeted intervention. Our local processes will be revisited in the light of the new guidance</p>

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7. That the Education Liaison and Support Service should look at the preparation of Personal Education Plans, review their format and introduce more robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure complete compliance	Ensure monitoring of compliance in relation to Personal Education Plan (PEP) becomes a core function of ELSS Effectively focus on transition issues during PEP from 14+	Service Manager (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)	April 2010	Improved compliance in number of looked after children with a PEP	98.1% of PEPs completed on time at end of year (2009/2010). 2 actuals were delayed Performance monitored quarterly
				Improved review rate of PEPs to ensure these are up to date Increased focus on 14+. PEPs being timely and including links with adults services	PEP's are reviewed every 6 months for all age groups. Target is for 100% to be reviewed in time for year end 2009/2010 98.1% achieved
8. That the opportunity should be taken in appropriate forums to highlight the importance of authorities placing children in other areas notifying the area where placements are being made	All managers attending regional meetings or meetings with independent providers use the opportunity to raise this issue	Head of Safeguarding (CYPD)	May 2010	Information regarding Children and Young People placed in Herefordshire is collated and stored to ensure safeguarding	Children temporarily placed in Herefordshire is a key priority for Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board for 2010/11 and is being led by the Stay Safe Outcomes Group. Performance and Review co-ordinate information about all children placed in Herefordshire.
9. That every provider has name and contact details of the housing team and access routes to relevant Council Services	All independent providers in Herefordshire are made aware of how to access housing routes	Service Manager (safeguarding & LAC)	June 2010	All independent providers know how to refer young care leavers for accommodation in Herefordshire	Issue raised at quarterly contract monitoring meetings that occurred in May and June 2010 that were held with local providers. Follow up letter to be sent to all providers by 31/07/2010
10. That a single budget for miscellaneous expenditure on young people be created with clear line management arrangements	Review additional expenditure processes as part of overall review of Fostering Allowances	Service Manager (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)	April 2009	Review of Fostering Allowances presented to Departmental Leadership Team (DLT) for consideration	New Fostering Allowances that are competency based now implemented with Levels 1, 2 & 3 clearly defined.
				Carers more able to cope with children who exhibit difficult behaviour	Some foster carers are now on level 2 having completed training and a portfolio demonstrating competence.
11. That the format and effectiveness of statutory review meetings is revisited	Conduct audit of attendance at Looked After Children Reviews	Service Manager (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)	March 2009	Young people have a say in who attends their LAC review and how it is managed	U-Chair introduced so that Young People can chair their own LAC reviews and have a better understanding of the process

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<p>and a review over three months of attendance at Case Reviews to see what the attendance levels actually were and whether these could or should be scaled down would be helpful</p>					
				<p>Actions taken in response to the child or young person's wishes and they have a meaningful input into their reviews</p>	<p>Future plans include Independent Reviewing Officers seeing the child or young person prior to their review and through this visit identifying who they would like to attend. To be implemented by September 2010</p>
				<p>Feedback provided by looked after children and young people to inform practice</p>	<p>Regular 6 weekly meetings between Heads of Service and young people for consultation and feedback being held at Centre 18 since 9th June 2010</p>
<p>12. That the Children and Young People's Directorate gives further consideration to arrangements for the change of foster placement to see if policies and practices can be improved</p>	<p>Review change of placement policy and procedures as part of overall review of children's services procedures manual</p>	<p>Service Manager (Safeguarding and LAC)</p>	<p>August 2010</p>	<p>Policy and procedures available on intranet</p>	<p>Policies and procedures currently being updated and will be published on intranet by August 2010</p>
				<p>Children matched and placed or moved appropriately</p>	<p>Multidisciplinary Placement Panel set up and meeting weekly since March 2010 to manage placements and placement moves to ensure children place appropriately</p>
				<p>Policy and procedures publicised to staff, carers and young people</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>15. That an explicit policy statement prohibiting the use of bin bags to transport belongings when moving placements is prepared within 3 months and publicised to ensure adherence</p>	<p>Reemphasise policy and procedures linked to transporting of belongings in line with commitment previously made by Herefordshire Council on www.thisisnotasuitcase.org.uk</p>	<p>Service Manager (Safeguarding and LAC)</p>	<p>August 2010</p>	<p>Policy and procedures available on intranet by August 2010</p>	<p>Herefordshire signed up to the "This is not a suitcase initiative" stating we will not use black bin bags to transport Children and Young People's belongings. New policy produced to ensure this is not happening by August 2010</p>
				<p>Policy and procedures publicised to staff, carers and young people Cases where this occurs are reported and investigated to prevent re-occurrence.</p>	<p>Policy discussed at Corporate Parenting Panel in April 2010 and with all agency providers at quarterly contract monitoring meetings held in May and June 2010</p>

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16. That the Children and Young People's Directorate gives further consideration to arrangements for the change of social worker to see if policies and practices can be improved	Review change of Social Worker policy and procedures as part of overall review of children's services procedures manual	Heads Of Service (Safeguarding & Vulnerable Children)	August 2010	Policy and procedures available on intranet	Policies to be updated by August 2010
				Setting up of integrated LAC Team with dedicated LAC social workers and Aftercare Workers	Team to be set up by September 2010
17. That existing policy documents should be revisited and revised to make clear that the opportunity to return to a formal care setting did exist if that was what the young person wanted and efforts should be made to enhance the flexibility of the system	Promote legislation and existing Council policy to Aftercare Workers, Independent Reviewing Officers and care leavers	Head of Service (Fieldwork)	October 2008	Staff and Foster Carers are aware of policy of not using Black Bags	Policy included in revised staff handbook due for completion August 2010 Memo sent to all staff by 31 st July 2010
				Care Leavers are able to exercise this right.	Standard letter sent to care leavers when they leave care before they reach age of 18
18. That the Children and Young People's Directorate gives further consideration to arrangements for the move to aftercare to see if policies and practices can be improved to make the transition more seamless	Setting up of an integrated LAC Team that has one manager managing both LAC Social Workers and Aftercare Workers. Transition will be within same team	Head of Service (Fieldwork)	July 2010	Aftercare Worker allocated to all care leavers by 16 th birthday. Social Worker produces a Pathway assisted by an After Care worker.	Team to be created by September 2010
19. That where evidence of discrimination is presented to the Council, the Council uses what powers it can to tackle it	All three Directorates take responsibility for ensuring that this issue is addressed through equality action plans	Head of Safeguarding and Assessment	March 2009	Actions evident in Directorate equality action plans and any appropriate action taken in individual cases	No individual cases have been identified. To continue to be in updated equality action plans produced annually.