

## Action Plan: Joint Scrutiny Review on Transition from Leaving Care to Adult Life

Chairman of the Review Group: Councillor J E Pemberton  
 Lead Support Officer: Head of Safeguarding and Assessment

Recommendation	Action(s) to Address	Lead Officer	Timescale	Success Measure(s)	
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	February 2009	Allocation Policy reviewed and published	Allocations Policy has been reviewed and re-drafted. Due to be considered by Cabinet and Home Point by end April 10.
	100% of care leavers referred rehoused through Home Point			During 2009/10 no care leavers have been accommodated via Home Point as a result of having to make a homeless application. All care leavers requiring accommodation successfully housed via move-on protocol following aftercare referral. 24 came with priority. Housed 53 since 2005 policy. 25 found alternative. 2 ended up going down homeless route. November 2007/March 2009.	
	Review the accommodation needs of care leavers		March 2009	Needs Assessment Undertaken	The action to review will be included in the Youth Homelessness Strategy Action Plan currently being prepared
	Review provision of support to ensure care leavers can access services to enable them to maintain their tenancy		March 2009	Review completed	This would be discussed with the care leaver as part of their Pathway Plan and upon allocation of accommodation. It is paramount that a care leaver is facilitated to maintain their tenancy
				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. Meeting held monthly since November 2010
				Steering Group established to provide support	Children in Care interest group and Corporate Parenting Panel also set up via Corporate Parenting Strategy. These support the Children in Care Council.
				CYP see their wishes acted upon /taken into account in service delivery changes appropriately	Links to strategic decision making identified in corporate parenting strategy.
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)	Service Manager (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)	January 2009	Report presented to DMT and Cabinet Member for CYP	New review of Education Liaison Support Service out for informal consultation. Includes proposal for virtual head teacher.
				Decision taken re: Virtual Headteacher and any other service changes required	These decisions will be made by the end of April 2010

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<p>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</p>	<p>Implement Frameworki electronic workflow system as part of Integrated Social Care Solution (ISCS) Project Phase 1</p>	<p>Service Manager (Referral and Assessment)</p>	<p>November 2008</p>	<p>ISCS Phase 1 implemented on schedule</p>	<p>ICS Phase 1 implemented. Now about to implement batch one of revised ICS exemplars in March 2010.</p>
	<p>Corelogic to develop Frameworki software to increase integration with NHS IT systems</p>		<p>March 2009</p>	<p>Work completed by Corelogic on schedule</p>	<p>This has yet to be developed by Corelogic</p>
	<p>Explore viability of greater integration between Frameworki and PCT IT system in Herefordshire</p>		<p>August 2009</p>	<p>Viability study completed and proposals for action produced</p>	<p>Viability study yet to be completed</p>
<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>Job Description drawn up</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.  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>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>Post established</p>	<p>Funding was not secured</p>

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<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>Signposting Coordinator</p>	<p>October 2008</p>	<p>Vulnerable young people not eligible for service receive timely and appropriate signposting</p>	<p>Adult social care is involved in Transitions Work at a strategic level and is well represented at the multi agency operational group. It is at this operational group that information about young people with needs resulting from physical disability, learning disability and mental health is shared and the planning process for the individuals monitored. Should a young person, following assessment, not be eligible for council funded adult social care the operational group would still be able to draw on the knowledge of adult social care for identifying other sources of information and potential support</p>
	<p>Undertake review of thresholds in context of national review of eligibility criteria</p>	<p>Head of Transformation</p>	<p>December 2008 (subject to publication of national review)</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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<p>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</p>	<p>Ensure monitoring of compliance in relation to Personal Education Plan (PEP) becomes a core function of ELSS</p> <p>Effectively focus on transition issues during PEP from 14+</p>	<p>Service Manager (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)</p>	<p>October 2008</p>	<p>Improved compliance in number of looked after children with a PEP</p> <hr/> <p>Improved review rate of PEPs to ensure these are up to date</p> <p>Increased focus on 14+.</p> <p>PEPs being timely and including links with adults services</p>	<p>97% of PEPs completed on time at end of quarter 3 (2009/2010). Target of 100% for year end.</p> <hr/> <p>PEP's are reviewed every 6 months for all age groups.</p> <p>Target is for 100% to be reviewed in time for year end 2009/2010</p>

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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 and Assessment	October 2008 and ongoing	Issue raised as appropriate	This remains an ongoing issue. Working with all of CYPD to gather this information from a number of different sources.  Comprehensive list to be in place by Mid April 2010.
9. That every provider has name and contact details of the housing team and access routes to relevant Council Services	Formal letter to be sent to all independent providers in Herefordshire	Head of Safeguarding and Assessment	December 2008 (subject to response from Ofsted re: 10)	Names and addresses obtained	Uncertain if this happened.  This will be checked at the next quarterly reviews that occur in April and May 2010 we have with local providers.
10. That the strongest representations be made to Ofsted that the Council must be made aware of independent care providers registered with it and kept regularly updated to enable the Council to discharge its responsibilities effectively	Formal letter to be sent to Ofsted by Cabinet Member, Children's Services	Head of Safeguarding and Assessment	October 2008	Letter sent	I have been advised a letter was sent
				Formal response received	And that a formal response was received.  We currently work with most local providers and are maintaining contact with them about children and young people placed in Herefordshire by other local Authorities

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11. That Health Services consider how they can develop a system to flag up looked after children in care and care leavers and ensure an effective link to the Council's looked after system	Explore viability of installing alert on computerised Patient Administration System (PAS)	Designated Nurse Safeguarding (Primary Care Trust)	December 2008	Alert recorded on PAS system	The LAC Health Nurse and Designated doctor are being given access to Frameworki and Frameworki reporting so they will have up to date information on Looked after Children . They are receiving training so they can enter Health information straight onto Frameworki
				Staff made aware of alert	See above
	Explore possibility of establishing links with Corelogic Frameworki once system introduced		March 2009	Discussion taken place between Council and PCT ICT staff to establish viability	This does not appear to have happened but see 11.1
12. 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.
				Proposals implemented	See above
13. That the format and effectiveness of statutory review meetings is revisited 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	Conduct audit of attendance at Looked After Children Reviews	Service Manager (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)	March 2009	Report produced	U-Chair introduced so that YP can chair their own LAC reviews and have a better understanding of the process
				Actions taken in response	Future plans include Independent Reviewing Officers seeing the child or young person prior to their review and through this visit identifying who they would

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down would be helpful					like to attend.
				Feedback provided to looked after children and young people	See 2 boxes above
14. 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	Review change of placement policy and procedures as part of overall review of children's services procedures manual	Acting Service Manager (Fieldwork)	December 2008	Policy and procedures available on intranet	Policies and procedures currently being updated.
				Policy and procedures publicised to staff, carers and young people	See above
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	Reemphasise policy and procedures linked to transporting of belongings in line with commitment previously made by Herefordshire Council on <a href="http://www.thisisnotasuitcase.org.uk">www.thisisnotasuitcase.org.uk</a>	Acting Service Manager (Fieldwork)	December 2008	Policy and procedures available on intranet	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
				Policy and procedures publicised to staff, carers and young people	Policy to be on Intranet and publicised
16. That the Children and Young People's Directorate gives further consideration to	Review change of Social Worker policy and procedures as part of overall review of children's services procedures	Acting Service Manager (Fieldwork)	December 2008	Policy and procedures available on intranet	The current review of Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children includes the setting up of a Looked After



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arrangements for the change of social worker to see if policies and practices can be improved	manual			Policy and procedures publicised to staff, carers and young people	Children Team including Social Workers and Aftercare workers. Once this is in place there should be less changes of services.  A policy will be written about case transfer protocol
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	Acting Service Manager (Fieldwork)	October 2008	Formal memorandum issued to relevant staff	Policy written
				Appropriate communication with care leavers	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	Introduce fortnightly handover meetings to ensure appropriate arrangements made for all looked after children approaching transition	Acting Service Manager (Fieldwork)	October 2008	Aftercare Worker allocated to all care leavers by 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday	The current review of Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children includes the setting up of a Looked After Children Team including Social Workers and Aftercare workers. Once this is in place there should be less changes of services.
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.