

Corporate Parenting Board

19 July 2018

Report title	Local Offer for Care Leavers	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Alison Hinds Tel Email	Head of Looked after Children 01902 553035 Alison.hinds@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the contents of the Local Offer for Care Leavers

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide detail of the City of Wolverhampton's Local Offer for Care Leavers to Corporate Parenting Board.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Following the 'Children's Social Care Reform – A Vision for Change' document published in January 2016, the government produced the Children and Social Work Bill which subsequently received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. Implicit in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 is the requirement to improve support for looked after children in England and Wales especially for those leaving care.
- 2.2 The Act introduces seven corporate parenting principles to which local authorities must have regard. These are:
- to act in the best interests and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of relevant children and young people
 - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
 - to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
 - to help those children and young people gain access to and make best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
 - to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people
 - to have regard to the need for those children and young people to be safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
 - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
- 2.3 By September 2018, local authorities in England are required to publish a Local Offer for care leavers, providing information about services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and well-being, relationships, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 The City of Wolverhampton Children and Young People's Service has worked closely with internal and external partners, and with care leavers to co-produce the Local Offer for Care Leavers. The Local Offer not only details the statutory requirements of support to care leavers, but also includes details of additional support and services that are available within the City of Wolverhampton for care leavers who have been previously looked after by the City of Wolverhampton.

- 3.2 The Local Offer will be published in September 2018 and the content made available in different forms.
- 3.3 It will be communicated to care leavers, and professionals working with care leavers, across the City. The Local Offer will be officially launched in national Care Leavers' Week in October 2018.
- 3.4 The City of Wolverhampton is continuing to work with partner organisations on enhancements to the Local Offer. It is anticipated that additional offers are likely to include:
- Free access to public transport to care leavers across the West Midlands
 - Smoother transition support from Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services to adult mental health services
 - Discounted rent for working Care Leavers
 - 6 months' rent on account for care leavers in Wolverhampton Homes properties
 - Facility to regain priority banding to apply for Wolverhampton Homes properties when returning to Wolverhampton from University in another part of the country.
 - No sanctions for care leavers claiming benefits by the Department of Work and Pensions
 - Access to City of Wolverhampton graduate programme for care leavers leaving university
 - Senior Officer Mentoring Scheme in the City of Wolverhampton
 - Grandmentor Project
 - Protected Savings for care leavers
 - Alumni for Care Leavers
 - Discounted optical care for working care leavers
 - Access to free beauty treatments for care leavers
- 3.5 The Local Offer will be reviewed on an annual basis. Any additional confirmed service or support available will be added to the Local Offer.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The statutory elements of the Local Offer for Care Leavers are contained within existing budgets in the Transitions Team under the Looked after Children's Service.
- 4.2 The other discretionary elements of the Local Offer for Care Leavers have been negotiated with other partners as in-kind contributions to the offer.
- 4.3 There are no other direct costs associated with the Local Offer for Care Leavers.
- [NM/10072018/U]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 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.

It must also publish information on any other services the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in preparing for adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and well-being, relationships, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society.

[TC/11072018/B]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 An equalities analysis has been completed. This has raised no concerns relating to equalities. The Local Offer supports the ambition to improve opportunities and reduce disadvantage that care leavers face within society.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications.

9.0 Corporate Landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 There are no background papers.

11.0 Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1: The City of Wolverhampton Local Offer for Care Leavers