

# Corporate Parenting Board

## 14 September 2017

<b>Report title</b>	Impact of new Belongings Project and Outcome of Care Leavers Survey 2017	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Looked After Children's – Transitions Team	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Laura Wood Tel Email	Senior Social Work Team Manager 01902 556439 Laura.wood2@wolverhampton.gov.uk

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Consider the report and provide feedback on the City of Wolverhampton Council Annual Care Leaver Survey Action Plan for 2017-2018.

### Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note:

1. The report details the work of the City of Wolverhampton Looked After Children's (LAC) Transition Service in the year of July 2016 – July 2017.
2. The action plan for the year of August 2017 – July 2018.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the City of Wolverhampton's New Belongings project 2016-2017:
- To review the impact the New Belongings project had and what it has achieved.
  - To review how the project has improved outcomes for Care Leavers.
  - To present the new action plan which we will continue to drive forward local service provision, this is now called the care leaver annual survey as the New Belongings initiative has ceased.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Historically Wolverhampton's Looked after Children's Transitions Team has struggled to raise the profile of young people leaving care. The New Belongings project was an innovative and ambitious initiative aimed at raising the expectations and aspirations for Care Leavers.
- 2.2 Wolverhampton were successful in our bid to partake in The New Belongings project, our care leaver survey was completed which informed our action plan in regards to improving overall service delivery for Wolverhampton Care Leavers. The action plan was implemented, when this was reviewed at the end of 12 months it was evident from the care leaver annual survey that they felt service delivery had improved and care leaver provision city wide had increased.
- 2.3 Wolverhampton agreed that the ethos and culture New Belongings had embedded, was vital when ensuring Care Leavers were supported to achieve the best possible outcomes. The LAC Transition team continues to survey care leavers on an annual basis to ensure the service receives feedback in terms of service delivery, these results are then analysed and a new action plan is formulated which is launched in Care Leaver week every October.
- 2.4 The annual care leaver survey analysis and work plan attached details the performance of the City of Wolverhampton LAC Transition service in the year July 2016 – June 2017.
- 2.5 The report outlines the progress made and the areas of improvement needed over the next 12 months in respect to LAC transition services practice. The attached work plan has been formulated to ensure improvements are actioned and reviewed regularly via a monthly care leaver steering group and the care leavers forum.

## **3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.**

- 3.1 The care leaver survey has assessed the impact of the New Belongings action plan 2016-2017 for Wolverhampton Care Leavers. 73 young people took part, which was an increase of 10 young people compared to last year, however, due to an increase in the care leaver cohort (341), the total response rate has decreased to 21%. The main cohort that responded was young people between the ages of 17 – 19 years old.

3.2 The survey showed that the main strengths were as follows:

**LAC Transition service:**

- 92% of young people felt they were involved in their decision making.
- 93% of young people felt that they are getting the right help.
- 84% of young people felt they left care when they were ready compared to 48% last year.
- 94% of young people feel they are being supported/were prepared when they left care compared to 58% last year.
- 64% of young people are aware of Friday drop in compared to 41% last year. 19% of the young people who did not know about this service live out of city.

**Accommodation:**

- 90% of young people feel safe in their accommodation compared to 80% last year.
- 90% of young people feel their accommodation meets their needs compared to 73% last year.
- 90% of young people feel that they can adequately budget compared to 70% last year.

**Education, Employment and Training (EET):**

- 62% of young people are in an EET provision compared to 46% last year.
- 44% of young people have an aspiration to attend university.

**Health:**

- 96% of young people feel supported with their health and well-being compared to 70% last year.
- 14% of young people have received the new leaving care health summary.

**Participation:**

- 93% of young people attend their LAC/Pathway Plan reviews.
- 44% of young people are aware of the new Indi group, 72% of these young people thought it was useful, 11% of young people would like to join.
- 64% of young people are aware of the Care Leaver Forum compared to 57%, of the 33% that were not aware 26% live in out of city placements.
- 81% of young people feel that the Care Leaver Forum is valuable compared to 29% last year.

**Entitlements:**

- 79% of young people leaving care are aware of their entitlements compared to 60% last year.
- 79% of young people leaving care feel they are getting what they are entitled to compared to 68% last year.

### **Three things LAC Transition Service do well:**

- Accommodation options.
- Stay in touch and provide good support and advice.
- Participation activities like Indi group.

3.3 The results were collated and analysed; Care Leavers stated that the following improvements needed to be made during 2017-2018:

#### **LAC Transition Service:**

- 81% of young people have a good relationship with their worker this is a decrease from last year where it was 98%.
- 78% of young people who have a young person's advisor have a good relationship with their YPA.
- 84% of young people who have a social worker felt they have a good relationship with them.
- 39% of young people who attended Friday drop in felt it helped.

#### **Participation:**

- 63% of young people are aware of the Facebook page Lacey's child compared to 59% last year, of the 37% that were not aware, 23% live in out of city placements.
- 52% of young people are aware of the LAC website compared to 49% last year, of the 48% that were not aware 36% live in out of city placements.
- 30% of young people have received a Care Leavers' newsletter compared to 21% last year, of the 68% that had not, 52% live in out of city placements.
- 87% of young people found this useful compared to 14% last year.
- 31% of young people are aware of the new Mind of My Own (Momo) app, of the ones that are aware only 8% are using it, 78% of these young people think it is useful. 45% of young people who were not aware of the app live out of city.
- 20% of young people who are pregnant/have a child attend the young parent's group at The Way, all that attended felt it was valuable, 71% of young people who were not attending live out of city.

#### **Entitlements:**

- Some young people surveyed had not met their Young Person's Advisor (YPA) despite being allocated prior to their 16 birthday.
- Some young people felt their YPA could have been better matched to their personality.
- 70% of young people feel they are making decisions regarding their future compared to 80% last year.

### **Three things LAC Transition Service could do better:**

- Give more financial support – clothing allowance, birthday allowance, holiday money, driving lessons.
- Sort savings out on time.
- Stop changing social worker.  
\*63% of young people stated they would like to remain open post 21, young people stated they would like the following support post 21.
- To continue as it is.
- To make sure young people are on the right track and maintain it.
- Someone to talk to when need advice.
- Keep in contact four to -six months

3.4 The care leaver survey action plan 2017-2018 has been produced taking into consideration the results of the care leaver survey and the views taken from the young people at the Care Leavers' Forum.

3.5 We expect that the combined efforts to address the above points will decrease barriers for Care Leavers in the community, providing them with increased support, by engaging the abilities of the whole of the Local Authority, its key service partners and the wider community. Creating an action plan that reflects the priorities that the Local Authority and its Care Leavers consider important to them, for example, increased participation, on-going education, training and employment opportunities, housing options and access to health and wellbeing services via our local services and partners, will raise the profile of Care Leavers. This should promote aspirations and opportunities for our Care Leavers so that they can be encouraged, supported and empowered to achieve better outcomes for their future. Breaking down these barriers will automatically improve our Care Leavers' experience of entry from childhood to adult life.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 The approved budget for 2017-2018 for the Looked After Children's Transition Team is £2.4 million.

4.2 If the decision is made to give more financial support in relation to clothing allowances, birthday allowances, holiday money, driving lessons as referred to in paragraph 3.3 then this would be the subject of a further report. Any additional costs associated with this would have to be contained within the existing budget.  
[NM/06092017/J]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications.  
[AH/06092017/J]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no equalities implications.

## **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**