

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 JULY 2021

**REPORT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Children and Young People - Councillor Lisa Evans

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CARE LEAVERS EET

SUMMARY

The Children and Young People Select Committee has completed a review examining Care Leavers EET.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme. The review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Children and Young People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

Enabling Young People to be work ready

1. Improves transitions from pre to post 18 services and explore distinct approaches to provide coping mechanisms for our young people who are care leavers moving from education to employment or further training.
2. Redefines its approach and commitment to getting a young person in care or leaving care into education, employment or training by retraining and refocusing the workforce.

Creating Opportunities

3. Explores appropriate local and national incentives available for employee and employer when employment is gained.
4. Strengthens its commitment to seeking out and increasing access to interview opportunities to young people who are care leavers.
5. Ensures education, employment or training is at the forefront of Children's Services and partners' work with all children and young people, and in particular a strong focus on young people leaving care.
6. Has a corporate commitment to creating a sustainable model to increase access to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities within SBC for young people leaving care.

Brokerage Opportunities

7. Has a Borough-Wide commitment to creating a sustainable model to increase access to work experience and job opportunities with local employers and partner agencies for young people leaving care through the creation of a dedicated brokerage resource which will focus on pro-actively finding, placing and maintaining young people in education, employment and training.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Care Leavers EET.
2. Although outcomes for young people in Stockton were in line with national averages, the review examined whether the Council was doing enough and what more needed to be done to further improve performance and outcomes for young people.
3. The Select Committee has taken evidence from Council Officers (including the Leaving Care Service, Youth Direction, HR, Business Engagement and the Virtual School), Coventry City Council, North Yorkshire County Council and a leading homelessness charity. A survey of NEET young people was also carried out.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

4. The recommendations seek to improve opportunities for children leaving our care.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

8. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. None.

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