

APPENDIX 1

Summary of the Current Care Leavers Local Offer.

| Area | Existing services/support | Ideas for development (so far) |
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| <p>Personal Adviser (PA)</p> | <p>All young people get a PA allocated to them at age 16 in addition to their social worker in order to start building up a relationship with the PA. The PA becomes the primary worker for the young people once they reach 18 yr old (or leave care). PA role is to offer guidance advice and support, assess need and skills and with the young person put plans in place linking in with other services, to support aspirations and good outcomes.</p> <p>Support young people who want access to their files should they will to see them.</p> <p>PA remains involved until age 21 (now extended to 25)</p> | <p>All those previous care leavers currently aged 21 to 24 will be, where possible contacted to offer the services of a PA to assess and support needs.</p> <p>Accommodation / building for the Care Leaving team – creating a centre for care leavers which is a suitable environment and base for the PA's and care leavers which gives better opportunities to develop relationships in a youth friendly environment, opportunities for group work and one to one work. Space for education support and life skills training as well as a friendly place just to drop in.</p> <p>PA's to be trained in motivational approaches/ life coaching</p> |
| <p>Pathway assessment and Pathway Plan.</p> | <p>All care leavers have a pathway assessment and plan developed every 6 months. The plan is the care leavers pathway of choice for the future as they move towards independence. Developing and building upon skills ambition and aspirations in terms of health, education training and employment, family and social life and relationships, accommodation, emotion wellbeing and practical skills needed to live independently and finance and budgeting.</p> <p>The plan is independently reviewed every 6 months. Workshops to develop independence skills.</p> | <p>More regular and more comprehensive life skills workshops including budgeting, cooking, house hold tasks and routines, health and safety and first aid and general home maintenance.</p> |

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| <p>Finance</p> | <p>Pathway plan considers budgeting etc Setting up home grant (up to £2000) Living allowances equivalent to benefits rate for young people aged under 18 who are living independently.</p> <p>Birthday and Christmas financial gift. Council tax exemption for our care leavers who live in Stockton. Match funding for driving lessons. Bursary for university (£2000 over the period of the course). Financial support towards university accommodation costs for 52 weeks of the year. £75 per year books allowance. Support in accessing other/ additional university funding streams for care leavers. Close working between PA's and Job centre Plus/ DWP and protocol in place which allows young person to start process of claiming the right benefit support before 18th birthday.</p> <p>Encouragement for young person to give consent to PA to communicate on their behalf with benefits agency re benefit entitlement and possible sanctions against the young person. Close links to CAB for specialist advice re care leavers and benefits. Support for care leaver to access their government funded Junior ISA (Via Share Foundation) Discretionary payments – crisis situations/ towards specialist equipment/ clothing required for education, training or employment.</p> | <p>Financial support to apply for passports. Fund 1st year of home contents insurance Fund TV licence for 1st year Free or reduced cost travel card to support with travel when in education training or employment. Funding for first laptop/ start -up costs when in further education and training. Reimbursing council tax payment for our care leavers who live outside of Stockton council</p> |
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| <p>Health and wellbeing (and keeping safe)</p> | <p>Annual health assessment for children in our care. Looked after children CAMHS contract. Looked after children nurses. Health passport. Sign posting to universal services etc. Pathway assessment and Pathway plans focus on health and wellbeing. Blossom project ACE project Tees Active – Gym membership. Allocation of a Personal Adviser and access to a duty worker in times of crises. Young parents support via children’s centres Annual celebration of achievement event</p> | <p>Live chat site – via the SID so that young people have an opportunity to talk to a duty worker on line- anonymously if needed (in and out of hours)</p> <p>Staying healthy workshops</p> <p>Encouraging and access to ‘Creative activities’ to help build self-esteem and confidence Improve access to emotional and mental health services via adult CAMHS consultation to PA’s A clinical mental health worker/ befriender for care leavers who need emotional or mental health support or help accessing it.</p> |
| <p>Relationships (and keeping safe.)</p> | <p>Social worker (SW) remains involved for duration young person is in care. A Personal Adviser(PA) is allocated at age 16 as an addition to the SW in order to start developing a relationship and PA takes over fully from age 18 through to 25. Expectation that PA maintains contact with young person at a minimum of every 8 weeks. Pathway assessment and Plan focus on relationships Grand-mentors scheme Blossom project</p> | <p>Peer mentors.</p> <p>Group work re healthy relationships. To be developed for particular groups eg young parents/ young people with Autism/SEND</p> <p>Access to the Independent Visitors scheme (currently available for children in care)</p> <p>Fun days out as a group (not just group meetings to consult) Treats – when do well (such as going out for a meal)</p> <p>Supporting the young parents by a family treat Volunteer babysitting service</p> |
| <p>Education and training Employment</p> | <p>Virtual school support whilst looked after and Personal Education Plan. EET forum that is multi departmental and focus on identifying job opportunities within and external to the council. Access to the universal Youth Direction careers advisers</p> | <p>Extend VS (or like) support post 18 yrs. Tutor employed to give care leavers opportunities to gain level 2 maths and English in a non-threatening and more encouraging and personal environment.</p> <p>Dedicated person to seek work opportunities for care leavers within and outside of the council and to support the ‘employer’</p> |

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| | <p>3 Apprenticeships ring fenced to care leavers. Financial support as detailed above for care leavers going to university and in further education and training.</p> | <p>Dedicated careers advisor who will work with care leavers up to age 25 and support them to become work ready</p> <p>Create more opportunities for shadowing/ work tasters/ apprenticeships/ work opportunities within the council.</p> <p>Create volunteering opportunities for care leavers</p> <p>Accredit - life skills training work shops</p> <p>Care leaver owned and run Café and Beauty Salon. (possibly within the leaving care building)</p> |
| <p>Accommodation</p> | <p>Resource team responsible for developing links and protocols with housing providers. Accommodation officer to identify and support the PA to coordinate appropriate provision for individual young people. Range of accommodation options are available such as: Staying Put (with the foster carer post 18 yrs) Staying Close (provision attached to or near by the children home) Supported lodgings Support in accessing Choice based lettings and Private renting. Care leavers are classed as band 1 (the highest priority) in this process. Supported housing – with key workers and support sessions to help build on life skills. (Parkfield Hall, 155 Norton road, St James) Bespoke supported housing. Emergency accommodation in one of two Crash Pads. Financial support when in university towards accommodation costs (holiday etc)</p> | <p>Decoration allowance.</p> <p>Handy person/ maintenance support worker to help care leavers who are just moving into their own properties or need a bit of support with DIY – (could be a care leaver trained up)</p> <p>Care Leavers develop and run their own flats.</p> |

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| | <p>Financial support towards setting up home costs as detailed above. Discretionary housing payments – fast track agreement.</p> <p>Weekend – out reach support from the accommodation outreach support worker for young people. The outreach support officer can offer a welfare visit advice support/ food parcels or even just drop in for a chat.</p> <p>Floating support – to help settle in those young people who are just starting off to live independently.</p> | |
| <p>Participation in society.</p> <p>Consultation and feedback</p> | <p>Lets Take Action Group Encourage care leavers to join Youth Assembly Care leavers as Young inspectors (inspecting and giving feedback on supported accommodation provision and other services)</p> <p>Involvement in recruitment and selection of social workers and PA's</p> <p>Creation and setting up of the 'Care leavers Fund' in conjunction with the Mayors charity.</p> <p>MOMO Access to independent advocate via NYAS</p> | <p>Create and promote opportunities for volunteering in community projects.</p> <p>SID – Care leavers local offer site to sign post to clubs and and groups in the area. SID – to sign post to different awards and schemes SID - to have a consultation section</p> <p>Workshops re participation in society – led by someone who can give inspiring presentations</p> <p>Assistance to enrol on to Electoral register</p> <p>PA's to have 'Facebook' accounts to enable communication with care leavers.</p> |

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| Our care leavers living outside of Stockton | As above where possible or liaison with the local authority area in which they live to provide appropriate support or services. | Reimburse council tax Pay for access to leisure facilities Reciprocal arrangement agreements to be developed on an individual basis. |
| Other local authority care leavers living in Stockton | Access to emergency advice and support from duty PA Liaison with the responsible local authority area | |