

## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**12 October 2015**

### **REVIEW OF ACCOMODATION**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

##### **1 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To examine the cohort of young people who have recently left the care of Sunderland City Council and ensure that they have moved into suitable accommodation, with the right support to help them into independence. Moreover to enable members to have an overview of those young people who are NEET / EAT.

##### **2 Background**

- 2.1 During the last Ofsted inspection, inspectors raised their concerns in terms of the accommodation offer to care leavers and the service that they receive from the council.
- 2.2 Concerns were also related to the sufficiency of suitable accommodation and the numbers of care leavers accessing Education, Employment or Training.
- 2.3 Following the inspection, much work has been undertaken to address some of the concerns raised and improve both the accommodation offer and also improve the service offer as a whole to care leavers.
- 2.4 One of the immediate issues was the sickness absence post inspection and impact on the workload. This issue has been alleviated, due to the majority of staff having returned to normal duties.
- 2.5 We have invested heavily into training and guidance and procedures for all staff relating to the leaving care task, in order that we are providing the best possible service to our young people.
- 2.6 We have involved both young people and partner agencies within the development of the guidance and procedures, so that it meets the needs of our young people and also the statutory responsibilities of our partner agencies.

### **3 Rationale for Audit**

- 3.1 In order to properly understand the outcomes for our care leavers an audit was undertaken of the last 10 young people who have left care at 18, but who continue to be our responsibility as 'former relevant' young person.
- 3.2 The manual audit undertaken, returned ICS system not being up to date.

### **4 Audit of Outcomes for Care Leavers**

- 4.1 The Audit considered the last 10 young people to leave care, from the end of July (24/07/15), through to the beginning of September (07/09/15)
- 4.2 The reasons for this group of young people entering care are as follows:
- 5 young people as a result of a 'family breakdown' one of whom was adopted.
  - 1 young person following an assault by his father.
  - 1 young person following a sexual assault of another young person and he was brought into care in order to protect him.
  - 1 young person due to homelessness.
  - 1 young person as a result of neglect and sexual abuse.
- 4.2 The accommodation that these young people are currently placed within (100 %) is defined as 'suitable accommodation' and is as follows:
- 4 young people are in 'semi independent' accommodation.
  - 2 young people are in a 'staying put arrangement'.
  - 1 young person in a 'supported accommodation' (following the breakdown of semi supported accommodation)
  - 1 young person Rehab home (this was at age 17)
  - 1 young person Supported Lodgings.
  - 1 young person remains in Residential care post 18, following the provision identified for him falling through.
- 4.3 The audit identified that potentially 7 of the 10 young people will be EET as of the beginning of the college term, this is defined as follows:
- 6 of the young people were due to commence college in September on a variety of courses, including Hair and Beauty, Travel and Tourism and Plumbing.
  - 1 young person continues to attend 6<sup>th</sup> Form College
  - 3 young people have not been able to secure Education, Employment or Training opportunities.

## 5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members to scrutinise the information contained within this report and ask any questions needed to clarify the information supplied.

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