

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

16 April 2018

**LEISURE AND CULTURAL OFFER FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND
CARE LEAVERS**

1. Purpose of the Report:

This Report is to advise the Corporate Parenting Board of the Local Leisure and Cultural Offer for Looked After Children and Care Leavers drafted April 2018.

2. Introduction

The aim of the leisure offer is to promote healthy and active lifestyles, for the children and young people in our care.

3. Everyone Active's Proposed Leisure Offer includes;

Working with Everyone Active (leisure provider) the young people would be able to use their facilities at Sunderland Aquatics Centre, Washington Leisure Centre, Silksworth Community Pool, Tennis and Wellness Centre, Houghton Sports Centre and Wellness Centre, Silksworth Sports Complex and Ski Slope, Bunny Hill Wellness Centre, Raich Carter Sports Centre and Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre with their card and Everyone Active would be able to produce a report on usage and invoice the council based on a reduced rate and on actual usage.

In widening the leisure offer to activities such as the gym and holiday activities, Everyone Active have confirmed that there will be a cost implication to this and it will be necessary to implement a fee.

4. Gym Memberships

Everyone Active could provide a discounted gym membership price of £150 per child (if 10 or more were purchased). To demonstrate £150 as being value for money, it currently costs a child concession £4 to use the gym per session. If the gym is used twice a week for a year the actual cost would be £416.

There has been a discussion at the leisure board that SLM have agreed to provide a number of **free passes for the gym**, the number is yet to be confirmed but the hope is that 50 will be provided. There will be an agreement that the service area and Everyone Active would work together to monitor usage as part of the agreement.

5. Holiday Activities

Everyone Active could provide a discount of 20% off actual prices if children are members

- All centre activities are available once the person reaches 16 years
- Soft play is from 4-8 years
- Holiday camps is from 5-14 years
- Gym junior sessions 11-15 years

6. Coaching Sessions

Everyone Active could provide a discount of 25% off all coaching sessions, gymnastics, football, active antz, if children are members

New member's sessions are run regularly and are available as and when required.

7. Free Swimming

Everyone active provides free swimming to all children and young people who are looked after under the age of 18 years. If the child is under the age of 8, then a carer would need to be present and they would also go free.

8. Data:

112 looked after children have an Everyone Active card as of February 2018 to access free swimming. The Everyone Active card has been issued since November 2016, in this period of time there has been 137 visits by children and young people who have a card.

9. Next Steps Leisure and Cultural Offer

The Next Steps service has the following policy regarding social and leisure activities for care leavers aged 16-18:

It is a maximum of £10.00 per week which is a maximum of £520 per year.

Where appropriate and dependent on an assessment of need Children's Services will pay for the membership of a hobby or leisure club and contribute towards the cost of equipment or special clothing/fees or contribute towards the cost of a social activity. This could include the cost of trial sessions and a contribution to travel costs. Social workers should assist young people to obtain a Sunderland Life Card (Leisure Pass). Young people should be encouraged and assisted to explore the leisure facilities that accept the Life Pass.

Financial assistance provided to pursue hobbies, leisure interests and social activities should be governed by the principle that these activities can be afforded by the young person at the age of eighteen, when they take over financial responsibility for their own affairs.

Where young people live outside of the Sunderland area, assistance will be provided to obtain a local Passport to Leisure (Life Card/Leisure Pass).

Young people should have access to at least one leisure/hobby/sports activity per week to ensure social inclusion.

10. Young People Leisure Requests

Young People have identified the following areas of activity in addition to gym passes or swimming that they would be interested in;

- Cinema
- Bowling
- Football Clubs
- Rugby Clubs
- Arts and Craft sessions
- Martial Arts
- Boxing
- Quaser Lazer
- Pool
- Climbing Wall

11. The Virtual School

Sunderland Virtual School staff share a statutory responsibility to support the transition of looked after (eligible) young people from Year 11 of secondary school into their chosen pathway of education until the age of 18. By working co-operatively with Next Steps and Connexions in the ELEET Team we also work to support young people as they transition into adulthood and the adult social care system.

The services and support offered by the Virtual School include, but aren't limited to;

- Year 11 early transition planning for young people in conjunction with school and all relevant professionals
- Support and guidance to find the right education or training placement and course to give each young person the best chance of achieving their potential
- Support, early intervention and advocacy when things become challenging, and at disciplinary meetings to ensure retention and completion of courses by liaising with training, education and relevant professionals at times of personal crisis

- Advice and help to develop CV's, job, course and apprenticeship searches, fill in applications and prepare for interviews
- Socio-emotional support to develop the skills and techniques needed to deal with challenges in a healthy, positive manner
- Monitoring educational and training progress via each young person's Personal Education Plan and other related meetings.
- Ensuring the young person's voice (views, desires and plans) is properly represented in their on-going education or training planning
- Working creatively with partners to explore apprenticeship and training opportunities with selection processes devised to allow each person to showcase their skills to the full
- Seeking out and quality assuring potential opportunities and education and training providers to give the best possible choices to our young people

We see each one of our young people as unique, with different skills, abilities and experiences, by working with all professionals involved in their support we work creatively, involving them to try to meet their individual needs and help them achieve to their full potential. We try to give each young person the level and type of support and information required to give them choices about their future without taking away their voice or restricting their independence and right to decide.

12. The Participation and Engagement Offer

The main focus of the participation and engagement service is to support the personal, social and emotional development of young people, raise their aspirations and build their resilience to prepare them for better transition to adulthood. This is achieved through a range of group based positive activities, individual mentoring, activities which promote youth participation in civic and community life, targeted group based activities, employment readiness and personal capacity through social action and volunteering programmes.

Participation and Engagement service have experienced, skilled and knowledgeable workforce in different project areas that coordinates and delivers services to our target group such as looked after children and LGBT+ young people.

Change Council: after school engagement for Looked after children and care leavers. This group is the voice of children and young people looked after and leaving care and work towards improving the care system in Sunderland for all young people.

LGBT+: a forum for young people LGBT+ to work on issues within Sunderland.

Youth Parliament: Voice of young people to decision makers they meet every

Wednesday and represent the views of young people on major boards and panels in the council. There are four members known to Children and Families with 2 young people who are looked after.

Sunderland Young Inspectors: A group of young people trained to inspect services in Sunderland.

Children and Young People's Advisory Network: an advisory group of children and young people who support the priorities in the children and young people's plan.

Takeover Challenge: Takeover Day is a national event promoted by the Children's Commissioner that offers young people the opportunity to take over some or parts of specific adult work roles for the day. Looked after children and young people are always given preference to participate. The experience ensured that young people opinions were valued; it also improved their confidence, self-esteem and career aspirations for the future.

13. Arts, Culture and Music

- Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens
- Sunderland Empire Theatre
- Sculpture Trail
- Royalty Theatre
- Keel Square
- Arts Centre Washington

14. Parks and Open Spaces

- Herrington Country Park
- Mowbray Park
- Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve and Joe's Pond
- Sunnyside Gardens
- Washington Wetland Centre

15. Libraries

- Family tickets for LAC, with no fines.
- Children/ YP can use our computers for free for 2 hours.
- Free printing for homework up to about 10 copies.

16. The Max Card

The Max Card is a discount card for foster families and families of children with additional needs. Families simply show their Max Card upon entry to a venue in order to obtain free or discounted admission.

TFC have bought 350 cards in May 2017 and 316 have been issued to date. The max cards are £2.50 +vat and last for 2 years. The Max card is available for looked after children up to the age of 25.

The scheme is designed to help these families save money on great days out at castles, zoos, bowling alleys and more.

We aim to provide a sense of community through stimulating learning experiences and enjoyable days out for everyone.

We work with local authorities and selected charities, who administer the cards to eligible families in their areas.

17. Tall Ship Ambassadors

In Sunderland we have the Tall Ships arriving in July 2018, in the build up to the event TFC sponsored three looked after young people to act as ambassadors leading up to the race. The aim is to raise the profile of Looked after children and also dismiss the stigmas associated with being looked after. Along with the ambassadors we have had 21 children and young people who are looked after on voyages throughout the years.