

15 October 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) - Councillor E Ruane

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, People

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Progress Report on Route 21 Care Leavers Service and proposed Finance Policy for Care Leavers

Is this a key decision?

No

The Council has a legal duty to provide support and advice to young people aged 16 and over who are living in the care of, or have left, the care of the local authority, preparing them for independent living and to have arrangements in place to support effective planning so their transition into adulthood is positive.

Route 21 Care Leavers Service was formulated by integrating the former 15 plus Social Work Team and the Shaftsbury Personal Advisor Service which was de-commissioned in March 2013. The Shaftsbury service transferred under the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment regulations (TUPE) in April 2013. The service restructure was implemented in December 2013. This enabled the Council to move forward with an integrated service for care leavers which is more efficient and effective in fulfilling the Council's responsibilities as a corporate parent, providing a consistent level of care and support, and improving outcomes for care leavers.

This report provides an update on the progress of the service and seeks approval of the revised Care Leavers Finance policy which sets out the rationale for the offer provided to Children Looked After and Care Leavers during their transition to adulthood.

The Policy has been updated through consultation with young People, internal and external partners and stakeholders. This would provide the service and young people with clarity about how the Council will support both Children Looked After and Care Leavers approaching the transition into adulthood in respect of their entitlements and other financial support.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) is requested to:

1. Note the progress being made
2. Approve the finance policy

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - Finance Policy for young people leaving care

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Progress Report on Route 21 Care Leavers Service and proposed Finance Policy for Care Leavers.

1. Context

1.1 The Council has a legal duty to provide support and advice to young people aged 16 and over who are living in, or have left, the care of the local authority, preparing them for independent living and to have arrangements in place to support effective planning so their transition into adulthood is positive.

1.2 The underpinning principles are to enable care leavers to achieve their potential as young adults, maintain education, employment and training. The functions including powers and duties of local authorities in relation to children leaving care and care leavers are set out in the legislation and statutory guidance outlined below:

- Children Act 1989
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 (the Care Leavers Regulations)
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Statutory guidance May 2014: Volume 3: Planning transition to adulthood for care leavers

1.3 In October 2013, the Government published the cross-departmental Care Leavers Strategy that sets out in one place the steps Government is taking to support care leavers to live independently once they have left their placement. The new strategy includes a wide range of commitments from Government to improve the help and support available to Young people leaving care across all areas of life . The strategy is available on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-leaver-strategy>

1.4 The legislation identifies four distinct status positions for young people who are leaving or who have left care. The Council has differing duties and powers in relation to each status, but all are entitled to expert advice and assessments of need and support:

Eligible child - A young person aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who is still looked after.

Relevant child - A young person aged 16 and/or 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who has left care. This also includes young people who were detained in custody or hospital when they turned 16, but immediately before prior to that were looked after.

Former relevant child- A young person aged between 18 and 21 who was previously 'eligible' or 'relevant'. Local authorities support this group at least until age 21 or longer if in education or training

Qualifying child - Any young person aged under 21 (or up to 24 if in education or training) who ceases to be looked after or accommodated, or privately fostered or subject to Special Guardianship order.

1.5 The Council aims to ensure that all care leavers receive inclusive, good quality support especially those care leavers with complex overlapping needs, which make them vulnerable to falling out of education and training into unemployment and poverty.

1.6 The Council has signed up to the national Care Leavers' Charter. This Charter is a set of principles and promises care leavers want central and local government to make. The

Charter's principles are at the core of the work of Route 21 and are designed to raise expectations, aspirations and understanding of what care leavers need.

- 1.7 **Staffing** - The service includes social workers and personal advisors, including social work capacity to supports unaccompanied asylum seeking minors who are looked after:

Post	Grade	FTE
Service Manager	10	1
Team Manager	G9	2
Social Workers	G6/7	6.6
Personal Adviser	G5	10.3
Administrative support	G2/G3	2
Total		21.9

- 1.8 The service restructure in December 2013 led to a number of vacancies. New appointments have been made to team manager posts, social workers and personal advisors. There are currently 3.2 fulltime equivalent vacancies for social workers and personal advisors. The service has also retained experienced and committed staff. The team have a range of qualifications and experience enabling the service to meet the diverse needs of young people.

- 1.9 The service is proactive in ensuring that case responsibility transfers from other teams to Route 21 to ensure young people receive a consistent service. The current projections indicate the service will work with between 380 to 400 young people aged between the ages of 15 to 24 years.

Additional demand has been created by the higher than expected numbers of young people obtaining looked after status through being remanded to custody. Funding Youth Justice Board transferred to the local authority based on previous numbers of remand to local authority accommodation. Current demand has exceeded expected projections and this will create a cost pressure.

The number of young people returning to education post 21 years and before they are 25 and the number of *qualifiers* as children subject to special guardianship orders has also increased.

Social Worker caseloads are operating at 21 and 26.3 for Personal Advisors per full-time equivalent. This is just above the required case loads of 20 cases for social workers and 25 for personal advisors.

- 1.10 In September 2014 the total number of children across the key categories are **371**:

Eligible	118
Relevant	18
Former relevant	211
Qualifiers	24

This includes:

47 unaccompanied asylum seeking young people allocated to social workers and personal advisors.

9 young people remanded to custody.

2.0 Ofsted Inspection

- 2.1 The Ofsted Inspection in January 2014 found that the services for care leavers “*requires improvement*” in the following areas.

- Improving the quality of pathway plans focusing upon longer term aspiration.

- A programme of events to aid the child on the journey towards independence,
- A systematic approach to ensuring locations are safe for accommodation.
- Ensuring that a greater number of care leavers take up the offer of being helped to understand their health history.
- Staying Put scheme to be reviewed and embedded.
- Ensuring that care leavers are clear about their entitlements.

2.2 In addition to the improvements identified by Ofsted, the service has also had three additional priorities as follows:

- Improving the involvement of young people and the Voices of Care Council.
- Changing the culture and strengthening the management of the service.
- Engaging with Kickstart and new ways of working.

2.3 **Improving the quality of pathway plans focusing upon longer term aspiration -**

Young people in care should have a Pathway Plan within 3 months of their 16th birthday or after becoming entitled to a leaving care service post 16 years of age, which should be reviewed every 6 months. The Pathway Plan is the responsibility of a Social Worker to implement and maintain up to the age of 18 with Personal Advisors leading on this thereafter.

Pathway Plans – overall performance across all teams	
March 2013	90%
January 2014	86%
September 2014	76% at midyear point and remainder are on track.

2.4 The performance expected for Route 21 service is that **all** young people leaving care must have a completed Pathway Plan. In September 2014, **100%** of young people leaving care and receiving a service from Route 21 had a completed Pathway Plan and **69%** (59 out of 86) of the young people who remain looked after have a completed plan, with others on track and will be completed within the required 6 month timeframe.

2.5 The Ofsted inspection identified the need to improve the quality of pathway plans by focusing upon longer term aspiration. In order to improve the quality of Pathway Planning within the service the following steps have been taken:

- Identification of young people requiring a pathway plan and timely case transfers to ensure these are completed in line with young person's care plan.
- Practice standards have been reinforced with staff and Team Managers are quality assuring Pathway Plans.
- Improving the format of the Pathway Plan to enable young people to use it as an effective document to support their transition to adulthood.

This has involved consultation with the Voices of Case Council to review the format for Pathway plans generated by the electronic recording system. These changes have focused on producing a plan that is user friendly, whilst complying with the statutory requirements. This is now awaiting implementation by the Protocol Support Team.

- The quality of pathway plans will be audited in October 2014.

2.6 **Improving the journey towards independence -** Improving the support and experience of young people with regard their readiness for independence is a key area of development.

A working group inclusive of young people, foster carers, social workers and residential staff is actively developing a toolkit which sets key milestones towards independence for children and young people in care from the age of 11 years. This is chaired by the Team Manager at Route 21. This work is making good progress, drawing from best practice elsewhere and will be completed by the end of 2014 and will set out an implementation plan which will report to the Operational Management Team and Corporate Parenting Board in 2015.

2.7 **A systematic approach to ensuring locations are safe for accommodation** - Pathway plans are the key to identifying and supporting young people's transition to independence and the type of accommodation they may need. Care leavers can choose the location of their own tenancy either through a supported accommodation provider, staying put, social housing provider or private rented accommodation. They are supported to ensure that their choices are well informed and based on sound advice. This has been strengthened with the implementation of the following:

- Proposed tenancies are jointly risk assessed with young people, the provider and the Placements team where these are brokered by the Placements Team.
- Information checks with the Community Safety Team and intelligence from the Child Sexual Exploitation Operational Group inform risk assessments.
- The young person, housing officers and personal advisors ensure that there is an exchange of information and good communication so that on-going support and advice can be provided.
- Supported accommodation provision is monitored via quarterly contract monitoring meetings, regular operational meetings and quarterly provider forums and these meetings maintain an overview to ensure that locations continue to be safe for accommodating Young People.
- Children's Residential Homes are required by Ofsted to have a safe locations risk assessment which involves liaison with the Police and other agencies and this is reviewed 6 monthly.

2.8 **Ensuring that a greater number of care leavers take up the offer of being helped to understand their health history** - A further recommendation of the Ofsted inspection was that when young people are making the transition into early adulthood, they do so with an understanding of their health history. LAC nurses are routinely notified by Route 21 when a young person is leaving care between the ages of 16 to 18 years. The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children reviews the health record and meets with the young person and/or provides a health summary which includes key information about their health history. The Designated Nurse has a strong presence in the service and in other settings and this has been further strengthened with the recent appointment of 2 Looked After Children nurses.

2.9 There is further exploration of how the health record can be better utilised in the Protocol System to capture key information regarding a child or young person's health history in a more systematic way. These proposals are subject to further development by the Health of Looked After Children Group and it reports progress on this recommendation to the Improvement Board.

2.10 **Staying Put scheme to be reviewed and embedded** - There are currently **26** young people who remain with their foster carers under Staying Put arrangements. The concept of staying put has been a national requirement since 2010. The "Staying Put" framework is aimed at former relevant young people who require an extended period with their former foster carers due to delayed maturity, vulnerability and/or in order to complete their education or training.

This requirement has been strengthened by the Children and Families Act 2014 and further guidance was issued in May 2014. The local authority received funding of £47,000 to

support the implementation of this duty in September 2014. A range of participation and engagement events were held with foster carers over the summer to help shape a revised approach to Staying Put in Coventry. There are a range of outstanding issues to be resolved in order to understand budgetary implications: future demand, payment levels, the link to fostering rates, support/training and co-ordination functions which may be required. These are currently being worked through and to assist with this, benchmarking with other local authorities has been undertaken. A new draft scheme will be finalised in November 2014.

The government are currently considering extending the Staying Put framework to children's residential provision. This would have a significant impact on resources and financial pressures as well as the regulatory framework for residential homes. Whilst the local authority is fully committed to supporting young people's transition to independence with their former foster carers, extending this framework to residential care settings would not be the preferred option. Supported accommodation with staffing for young people requiring additional support would be favoured as the appropriate next step in the transition towards adulthood.

- 2.11 **Ensuring that care leavers are clear about their benefits and entitlements** - The Government's all-party entitlements enquiry and Care Leavers Strategy highlights the need for young people to be given information about their entitlements in different ways by different people at different times. The service is working to ensure that information about entitlements is clear and more readily available to carers and professionals in the young person's support network.
- 2.12 Special benefit rules apply to care leavers. In general, local authorities are responsible for supporting young people in and from care up to the age of 18 by paying for accommodation and living costs. Only young parents and disabled young people between the ages of 16 and 17 years who are leaving care may be able to claim benefits. Post 18 the local authority may still give care leavers' further financial support, but they are not expected to be their main source of income. Like all young people they would get their income from work, education grants and, if eligible for benefits, they are supported to claim these.
- 2.13 Benefits advice is a very specialist area and constant change in benefit rules provide challenges to those working with care leavers. In October 2013, Jobcentre Plus introduced systems to identify care leavers on their Labour Market System to ensure care leavers get the best support available. The service has established quarterly meetings with the local Jobcentre Plus to ensure that there is regular exchange of information and minimal delays in care leavers receiving their benefits on their 18th birthday.
- 2.14 A partnership has been developed with Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau. Two care leavers who are apprentices employed by the Council will be trained by the project to deliver advice to care leavers via the Sorted Project so that they can deliver advice and mentoring to care leavers that go into social housing, deliver financial capability sessions either via 1:1 sessions or workshops and train other care leavers to become Sorted volunteers.
- 2.15 To ensure that young people are aware of their entitlements the following action is taken:
- A letter is issued to all young people at 15 years and 6 months, 17 years and 6 months and 20 years and 6 months signposting them to the National Care Leavers' Association website and ensuring that their entitlements are considered at each milestone with their Personal Advisor and Social Worker.
 - This has been further reinforced with staff to ensure that entitlements are discussed during at least every other statutory visit and this is recorded and verified by Managers.

- A letter is also issued to all “Qualifiers” so that they are aware particularly of their entitlements to support if returning to education prior to 21.
- 2.16 Alongside using conventional ways to communicate with young people e.g. face to face meetings, newsletters and leaflets, other creative ways of imparting information to Young people about their entitlements are being explored. The service is currently working with a care leaver to develop a mobile application which would support care leavers in providing information about their entitlements. The service continues to use social media, Facebook being a key form of communication with young people that use the service as well as developing web based information which engages young people.
- 2.17 The financial support available to care leavers is currently identified through the ‘Money Matters’ document. This has been reviewed with Voices of Care, stakeholders and has informed the proposed financial policy set out in paragraph 3.
- 2.18 **Involvement of young people** - The service has a strong commitment to involving young people, and their feedback and experience has informed the priorities for improvement. A team development day held in June 2014 included young people. A work plan to address the key areas is in place addressing the key findings of the inspection and the involvement of Young people is central to this.

There has also been a review of the duty system in response to the issues raised by young people. Young people told us that they would prefer a consistent duty person so that they did not have to repeat their story. The service is piloting a dedicated lead duty officer and this has been positively received. There is a stronger interface between the service and young people to ensure that issues of concern are addressed both in individual situations as well as informing practice and service design.

- 2.19 **Strengthening the management and culture of the service** - Since March 2014, there has been a positive and demonstrable shift in the culture of the service and staff have risen to the challenges of the Inspection as well as the feedback from the Young people in respect of the responsiveness of the service. The Voices of Care Council and other care leavers have been actively involved in working with the service to drive improvements and they have been part of the recruitment of all staff
- 2.20 The management of the service has been significantly strengthened with the appointment of a Service Manager in January 2014 and 2 Team Managers (commencing July 2014 and October 2014). They bring relevant knowledge and expertise in working with young people in care and care leavers with specific focus on promoting independence, education attainment and safeguarding expertise which is critical given the risks associated with this age group. There has been considerable change in the service and the team have continued to demonstrate excellent resolve and morale. They have invested in supporting new colleagues and have been fully involved in the development of the service. Stability within the service is crucial to the future success of the service.
- 2.21 **Kick Start** - The service is positively embracing Kickstart principles to the new ways of working. In readiness for moving to Friargate, the service will be piloting the duty system from Broadgate House from December 2014. This aims to consider what adjustments would be required to provide care leavers with the face to face contact when required as well as supporting Young people in circumstances where financial support will need cash transactions
- 2.22 **Supporting young people in apprenticeships, further or higher education** - The young person’s Personal Education Plan and Care Plan should, over the course of their education develop their career aspirations and ambitions and the pathway planning process should focus on enabling the young person to move into further education and/or employment. Across the care leavers there is a spectrum of skills and abilities.

- 2.23 The service works with those who have not been in full-time education for a number of years as well as those studying at a higher level. Many young people have interrupted education and engaging them in education is a challenge that requires investment of time, practical and emotional support to enable a young Person to gain confidence, to identify an appropriate route for them and to maintain their studies whilst often taking sole responsibility for running their own home.
- 2.24 To strengthen the support and advice available to young people, an experienced practitioner from Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Partnership is based within the service. The service also works closely with the Looked After Children Education Services to support young people to access a range of courses through colleges and other providers. The service has also established links with the Corporate Employment Team who regularly hold recruitment sessions with Young People.
- 2.25 The Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Partnership working with Looked After Children Education Service actively track and monitor the educational attainment of Young people up to the age of 21. This includes those placed out of the City and those who are being relocated back into the City. There are a total of **347** Young people whose progress is currently being tracked and **80 %** of these are in a positive destination.
- 2.26 The service currently has **10** young people studying at higher education level. 8 of the 10 young people are in universities and 7 others completed their higher education successfully in July 2014. The service has developed good relationships with local universities and the further education colleges. There is a range of support available to care leavers who are in further or higher education and this may vary depending on individual circumstances.
- 2.27 A range of education, employment or training (EET) offers are available to young people not in education, employment or training including the European Social Fund project called Evolution 3 and Talent Match, a Big Lottery Fund. These address barriers to work, helping them towards employment and training to support young people to take more manageable steps to re-engagement in education and employment. Other providers encouraging softer employability skills, such as Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs and the Herbert Art Gallery media team which also run courses and Young people are assisted to engage in these.
- 2.28 The team managers are actively engaged in partnerships with City and Henley Colleges and local universities to ensure Looked After Children and Care Leavers are fully supported and are able to achieve success and suitable progressions. This also includes the Careers Advisor and the Looked After Children Education Service which prepare colleges for the arrival of new students each year and to ensure that young people receive the bursaries they are entitled to. Information, Advice & Guidance sessions were regularly offered in a range of settings, however this responsibility has now transferred to schools and colleges which has an impact on the advice given.
- 2.29 The Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs continues to provide care leavers and older looked after young people with a programme of events that they can access at no cost. The service is also linked into the Hub which is a drop in café for young people who have needs relating to their mental health and our Young people could benefit from attending that provision.
- 2.30 Active partnerships with residential homes in the City and supported accommodation providers (Cyrenians, Key 2 and Elysian Fields), are well established, enabling the Service Manager to ensure that the development of life skills and planning for the transition to adulthood is emphasised and opportunities for young people are not missed. This includes working with commissioners and key providers through contract management meetings.

- 2.31 Recognising the vulnerabilities of some young people in relation to substance misuse and sexual health the service has stronger links with Compass and a worker from Compass is regularly located with the service. This enables information to be shared and referrals to be made so that appropriate interventions can be offered.
- 2.32 The service is actively engaged with the Coventry's Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing from Home Operational group enabling intelligence and concerns around potential victims, offenders and locations to be shared with the multi-agency group there and protective action to be taken. There is agreement for a dedicated CSE team to be established imminently and will be located with the MASH team in Christchurch House.

3 Proposed Finance Policy

- 3.1 A comprehensive review of finances provided to care leavers has been undertaken to ensure that care leavers are receiving appropriate support and that the Council's' resources are being efficiently utilised. The Finance policy for care leavers has been reviewed and will be supported with a short user friendly document for Young people will be available in a range of formats.
- 3.2 There has been a consultation event on the proposed changes with Voices of Care where young people have agreed the changes as well as other stakeholders and colleagues in finance. The proposed changes could deliver net savings of around £18,000 in a full year. (See section 7 for financial implications).

Overview of Changes to the Financial Policy

- 3.3 It is proposed to:
- Increase the Setting up Home Grant from £1,500 to £2,000 in line with the amount the Children's Minister Edward Timpson has requested all Local Authorities pay as a minimum and is listed by all Government publicity for care leavers as the recommended amount
 - Introduce incentives for Young people engaged in education and training based on good practice from other local authorities.
- 3.4 To fund these, the following changes are proposed:
1. Reduce maintenance for 16-18 year olds in their own tenancies in line with the current rate of benefits and deduct £10 a week to cover the cost of bills where the utility bills are being paid by the accommodation provider
 2. Support transport cost between accommodation and training centre for the first month of course and thereafter costs to be met from 16-19 bursary fund, if in receipt of this.
 3. Reduce the support for care leavers over 21 and this means they will no longer receive financial support for driving lessons, gym membership and birthday/festival allowance
 4. Only provide appropriate financial support for higher education up to first degree level or equivalent.
 5. Only support Young people whose immigration status means that they have limited leave to remain in the UK and cannot access public funds and are able to complete education courses in the academic year prior to their status expiring.
 6. For Young people who are deemed to be "unlawfully present in the UK", that is, those who have been refused asylum, they can only be supported to the extent necessary to avoid a breach of their human rights (under the European Convention of Human Rights).

4 Summary

4.1 It is considered that the service has made good progress and the current developmental work is focused on the delivering the improvements identified by the Ofsted Inspection. A good degree of momentum has been harnessed and the service aspires to be a good or outstanding service for care leavers. The key priorities for the service are:

- Partnership working with the Voices of Care Council
- Deliver on recommendations of the Ofsted Inspection relating to care leavers
- Preparation for independence toolkit to be completed and implemented across services
- Strong partnerships with key stake holders in Health, Education, Department of Works and Pension, Housing providers and others to ensure that care leavers are supported in their transition to adulthood
- Embed a process to ensure Young people leaving care do have a sound understanding of their own health history
- Implement the Finance Policy and ensure that entitlements are widely communicated to Young people and the people in their support network(carers and professionals).

4 Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) notes the progress made to date and approves the proposed finance policy.

5 Results of consultation undertaken

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Voices of Care on a range of issues and in particular the changes in the financial support and with other stakeholders.

6 Timetable for implementing this decision

If approved, the finance policy would be implemented on 1 January 2015.

7.0 Comments from Executive Director, Resources

7.1 **Financial implications** - The 3 strands of finance relating to Care Leavers within this report are identified below:

- i. Route 21 Care Leavers service:
As identified in the progress report in March 2014, the Route 21 Care Leavers service was set a £763,000 enabling a saving of £150,000 from the introduction of the new service. An additional £55,000 saving has been achieved in 2014/15 as part of the procurement savings target, and overall, spend is still expected to be within budget.
- ii. Financial support for care leavers:
The 2014/15 budget is £337,000 with a current expected overspend of £20,000 for this year. Net savings arising from the new finance policy will be £18,000 in a full year, however it is not expected that savings will be delivered this year as some costs have already been committed. A breakeven position is expected for 2015/16.
- iii. Staying Put scheme:
The expected cost for this year's Staying Put cohort is £155,000. A new grant of £47,000 has been received towards this cost following the introduction of the new Staying Put legislation. The net cost for 2014/15 is therefore £108,000.

7.2 Legal implications

The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 places requirements on local authorities to plan for looked after children so they have the support they need as they make the transition to adulthood. Legislation and statutory guidance dictates how support must be provided.

8.0 Other implications

8.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The Council is committed to helping care leavers to successfully live independently in its role as Corporate Parent. By continuous development of the Route 21 service, the Council seeks to improve the life chances of all vulnerable Young People, through an integrated approach and ensuring that children and Young people are safe, achieve and make a positive contribution.

8.2 How is risk being managed?

The restructured service has enabled the Council to move forward with an integrated service for care leavers which delivers a more efficient and effective service which fulfils the Council's responsibilities as a corporate parent, providing a consistent level of care and support, and improving outcomes for care leavers. There are financial pressures arising from :

Increase in demand for young people becoming looked after when they are remanded to custody

Positive increase in young people returning to education.

Increase in the number of young people remaining with foster carers under Staying Put as well as the potential extension to the Staying Put scheme to children's residential homes.

8.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

A strong service promoting the life chances for older looked after children which can demand the support of professionals both within and outside the Council from a position of strength would improve overall practice. This is due to setting high aspirations and standards of service delivery which should lead to performance improvement in all aspects of earlier work and planning for the children that this Local Authority takes into its protection and care.

8.4 Equalities/EIA

An Equality and Consultation Analysis was undertaken in 2012 with key stakeholders and Young people when the service was re-designed

8.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

8.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The service works extensively across key partner agencies to support the interests of care leavers and ensure a coherent multi-agency approach. On-going partnerships will be required to ensure services are focused on meeting the Council's continuing statutory duties and priorities for Care Leavers.

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