

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

23 November 2017

### LOCAL OFFER TO CARE LEAVERS 2017 - 2020

#### Report of the Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Safeguarding	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr R Foster, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People (Safeguarding)	
Contact Officer(s):	Tim O'Neill, Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive	01572 758402 <a href="mailto:toneill@rutland.gov.uk">toneill@rutland.gov.uk</a>
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

- Comments and provides feedback on the Local Offer to Care Leavers attached at Appendix 1.

## 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- The term “Care Leavers” is used to describe those children and young people who fall within scope of local authority duties set out in sections 23A and 24D of the Children Act 1989.
- The new **Children and Social Worker Act 2017** places a duty on the local authority to publish a **Local Offer for Care Leavers** providing information about services which the local authority offers that may assist Care Leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and wellbeing; relationships; education and training; employment; accommodation and participation in society.
- This policy is intended to give an overview of Rutland’s offer to Care Leavers.

## **2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1. The **Children and Social Work Bill** seeks to combine a commitment to protect the most vulnerable in society with the “ambition to ensure that disadvantaged children have the brightest possible future”. The Bill has been heard in the House of Lords and will be debated in the House of Commons in October 2017. A subsequent strategy entitled **Keep on Caring – Supporting Young People from Care to Independence** published in July 2016 sets out a plan for the delivery of a ‘step change’ in services for children in and leaving care.
- 2.2. At the same time the House of Commons’ Education Committee published its inquiry into the **Mental Health and well-being of looked-after children 2015/16**.
- 2.3. The **Children and Social Work Act 2017** received Royal Assent on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Act aims to:
  - 2.3.1 Improve support for children looked after in England and Wales especially for those leaving care;
  - 2.3.2 Enable better learning about effective approaches to child protection and care in England;
  - 2.3.3 Establish a new regulatory body for the social work profession in England.

### **2.4. Current Position:**

Rutland underwent their Single Inspection Framework in November 2016 which was published in February 2017. **The graded judgement about the experience and progress of Care Leavers was that it was good.**

## **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 In accordance with Chapter 1, Section 2 (6) of the Children and Social Care Work Act 2017 there has been consultation with relevant persons. This Local Offer has been shared with our current care leavers via their personal advisors and feedback has been gathered and changes made in accordance to any feedback. Our care Leavers felt the local offer is an accurate reflection of the support available to them in Rutland and all spoke of being happy with the offer to them and future care leavers.

## **4 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Rutland has been judged by Ofsted as ‘Good’, with regards to our work and support to Care Leavers.
- 4.2 We are very proud of all our Care Leavers and their achievements and would like to thank them for their ongoing support and influence they offer us as a council. We know there are things we can still do better and intend to work on these areas further as part of our local offer.

- 4.3 With our local offer alongside our promise (Pledges) to Care Leavers we are confident that as a council, and in partnership with our partners and our Care Leavers and those young people looked after, we will enhance our service further and ensure all our Care Leavers have the best start possible into adulthood.
- 4.4 As a council we want to make sure also our Care Leavers can access a range of services to meet their needs including financial support, access to health, education training and employment, personal advisers, effective pathway planning, appropriate housing including supported accommodation if this is assessed as being a need and mental health and counselling services as required.
- 4.5 We ask Scrutiny to comment and provide feedback on the offer outlined in the policy before Cabinet approval.

## **5 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 5.1 No background paperwork

## **6 APPENDICES**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Local Offer to Care Leavers 17-2020
- 6.2 Appendix 2 - Local Offer to Care Leavers Poster

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.