



## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>CARE LEAVERS LOCAL OFFER</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The report provides a updated Wirral Care Leaver's Local offer which better reflects the support and opportunities available from the council and wider support agencies.

As corporate parents, it is our responsibility to make sure care leavers know what services are available to them, and what they can expect to receive.

The local offer being presented in this report has been informed and developed through consultation with the members of the Care Leavers Council.

The local offer for care leavers relates to the following six key areas, these include:

1. Health and wellbeing
2. Relationships
3. Education and training
4. Employment
5. Accommodation
6. Participation in society

The work outlined in this report delivers against the following priorities of The Wirral Plan 2021 – 2026:

- Brighter Futures
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Active and Healthy Lives

This decision affects all wards. It is not a key decision.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to endorse the updated Care Leavers Local Offer and the work undertaken to date to ensure that the local authority and partners are effective corporate parents.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 Approval of the revised and updated Local Offer for Care Leavers by the Corporate Parenting Panel is required to ensure the Council meets its statutory requirement to produce and publish a Care Leaver Local Offer.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Do nothing: This has been discounted as it ensures transparency and legitimacy for the work of the Council and partners in undertaking their roles as corporate parents.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Wirral Care Leaver Local Offer was last drafted in June 2019. The Offer has been redesigned in May 2023 with input from young people from the Care Leavers council.
- 3.2 Young people requested an “easy to read” document, in a simple format and it be available in young people’s spoken language (Offer will be available in a range of dialects).
- 3.3 A “Young Person guide” has also been produced in conjunction with the Local Offer.
- 3.4 This revised and updated version of the Care Leavers Local offer has been simplified, condensed, and outlines all the services available to Wirral Care Leavers, including any financial support.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the updated Wirral Care Leaver Local Offer be published on the Councils website, The Right side of Care website and issued to all Wirral care experienced young people.
- 4.2 The Wirral Care Leaver Local Offer will be further reviewed and updated, June 2024.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Statutory guidance requires local authorities to provide a leaving care allowance, to enable care leavers to purchase essentials (such as furniture, white goods, and carpets/curtains) when they move into their first home.
- 4.2 Department for Education guidance currently recommends that local authorities should pay a minimum of £2,000. Following the independent review into children’s social care the minimum recommended amount was uplifted to £3,000 from April 2023. This change will equate to approximately an additional £50,000 per annum.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a statutory requirement for Councils in England to produce and publish a Care Leaver Local Offer.
- 5.2 The Children Social Work Act 2017, places a legal duty on local authorities to publish a Local Offer for Care Leavers: -
- (1) A local authority in England must publish information about:
    - (a) services which the local authority offers for care leavers as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989.
    - (b) other services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living.
  - (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), services which may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living include services relating to—
    - (a) health and well-being.
    - (b) relationships.
    - (c) education and training.
    - (d) employment.
    - (e) accommodation.
    - (f) participation in society.
  - (3) Where it considers appropriate, a local authority in England must publish information about services for care leavers offered by others which the local authority has power to offer as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989.
  - (4) Information required to be published by a local authority under this section is to be known as its “local offer for care leavers”.
  - (5) A local authority must update its local offer for care leavers from time to time, as appropriate.
  - (6) Before publishing its local offer for care leavers (or any updated version) a local authority must consult relevant persons about which of the services offered by the local authority may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living.
- 5.3 Section 2 requires local authorities to publish information about the services it offers to care leavers which may assist them in preparing for adulthood and independent living. These services may include health and wellbeing, education and training, employment, accommodation, and participation in society. It is distinct from the special educational needs and disability (SEND) local offer stipulated by the Children and Families Act 2014.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising out of the report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 It is vitally important that the council publishes an up-to-date local offer for care leavers both from a statutory duty perspective but also to ensure Wirral care leavers can access the right support at the right time to enable them to flourish and achieve.
- 7.2 Without access to an up to date well publicised local offer Wirral care leavers could be disadvantaged from a health and / or economic wellbeing perspective.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 Young people were fully consulted in preparation of the Wirral Care Leaver Local Offer, and the Care Leaver Council approved the final draft version of the Local Offer.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The local offer will be available and accessible for care leavers for whom English is not their first language and for those with special educational needs and / or disabilities. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no environment and climate implications.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no community wealth implications.

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## **APPENDICES**

Draft 2023-24 Local Offer for Care Leavers

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Children and Families Act 2014  
Children Social Work Act 2017

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel in accordance with the following extract of its Terms of Reference:

“A Sub-Committee... with delegated authority to exercise responsibility for the Council’s functions relating to the delivery by or on behalf of the Council, of Corporate Parenting functions”.

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date
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