

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and
Education

DECISION NO:

18/00056

Subject: Proposal to publish Kent County Council's Local Offer for Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education Cabinet I agree to:

- (i) Publish Kent County Council's Local Offer for Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years in accordance with the statutory requirements of The Children and Social Work Act (2017)**

Reason(s) for decision:

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) was implemented on 1st April 2018 and extends the Corporate Parenting responsibility for a Local Authority to provide support to Care Leavers up until the age of 25 years (formerly 21 years). Local Authorities are required to publish a Local Offer for Care Leavers by December 2018 which sets out the services and support available to them including their entitlements.

The Care Leavers Service has kept the impact of this change under review to ensure sufficient staff capacity to meet the demand. The offer will detail what this support will include, for example the allocation of a Personal Advisor, regular "drop in" events, signposting to partner agencies and community resources.

To help meet the requirements of the Local Offer, a grant from the Department of Education has been given towards the additional costs arising from supporting young people up to the age of 25. However, it is anticipated this will be insufficient to cover all the additional costs of providing the support and any further pressures will need to be identified within the 2019-22 Medium Term Financial Plan, a draft of which will be published in early January and is subject to agreement by the County Council in February 2019.

The Care Leavers Service completed a consultation with young people through the Young Adult Council (YAC) to seek their views and input into the offer. Care Leavers have been fundamental to the process, to co-produce the offer and ensure a service user voice in the design and commissioning of our 18plus Care Leavers service. A Care Leavers Survey has also been sent to all young people to establish their views on the service (November 2018).

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: Recommendations will be added

Any alternatives considered:

It is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority to publish its Local Offer for Care Leavers. There was extensive consultation with the Young Adult Council who provided their views and opinions on the content and design of the offer, which enabled different formats to be considered. Consultation was also undertaken with partner agencies including Young Lives Foundation, Catch 22, Health and Virtual School Kent. During the consultation, Local Offers from other Local Authorities were viewed, as a small number of authorities have already published their offer. This

ensured that Kent County Council took into account learning and feedback from both young people, partner agencies and neighbouring authorities prior to the publication of the Kent Local Offer.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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Signed

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Date