

### Purpose

1. To supply Members of the Care to Independence review with information including:
  - the views of care leavers regarding the support and preparation available to enable them to live independently
  - the support available for young people when accessing education, training and employment.

### Information

2. On 26 April 2010 the Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee agreed to include in the scrutiny work programme a review of the transition services available for young people leaving care.
3. The review will examine current processes for the transition from care to independence for young people; this will include the planning process for the transition and the support available to live independently. Members will consider a number of issues that are important for young people when making this move including financial support, education, training and employment, health and accommodation.
4. Young people who have experiences of leaving the care system have been invited to the meeting to discuss with Members the practical advice and support they received when making the transition to living independently.
5. Equipping young people with the skills and qualifications necessary to secure work is a priority for care leavers, some who may have had poor experiences of

the education system. Educational outcomes for Looked After children are significantly lower than other pupils. In 2010, 51% of all pupils obtained 5 A\*-C (including English and Maths) compared with just 12% of Looked After children. The local authority has a duty to maximise the education, training and employment opportunities for care leavers, working with them to achieve economic well being for the future. Julie Wilson and Rebecca Bowring, the County Council's Education, Employment and Training Advisors for Care Leavers will discuss with Members how they help young people to develop work and education options, and support care leavers to access and maintain work and educational placements.

6. In addition to young people needing support to access suitable education and training, they have to be supported to develop the basic skills that are needed when preparing to start work. Barbara Martin, Personal Advisor, Children and Young Peoples, will inform Members how young people are equipped with the necessary skills.
7. Michelle Lee, Aftercare Service Manager, Children and Young Peoples, will also attend the meeting to answer Member's questions.

## **Recommendations**

8. It is recommended Members of the review:
  - i. consider and ask questions about the information provided and discuss any issues arising
  - ii. consider issues which may require additional information and agree any areas around the future work programme.

Councillor Fiona Asbury  
Vice Chair, Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee.

Background papers:  
Nil