

### Purpose

1. To supply Members of the Care to Independence review with information concerning a range of issues that impact on the successful transition of young people leaving the care system to live independently.

### 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. Specialist support services for children looked after are provided by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). CAMHS aims to improve the mental health and well being for all children and young people aged 0 – 18 and has an involvement in the pathway planning process for young people leaving care. The importance of mental health support for young people at this time is essential as these young people have to deal with trauma related to their earlier life in addition to the prospect of living alone at a young age and this needs careful preparation and appropriate support. Yvonne Cottingham, Team Manager Co-ordinator, County CAMHS, Children Looked After and Adoption

Team, Children, Families and Cultural Services will attend the meeting to discuss how these young people are assisted at this time.

5. The local authority has a duty for arranging and funding accommodation for relevant 16/17 year old care leavers. This usually takes place in some form of supported accommodation. Care leavers over the age of 18 have a right to accommodation provided by the district housing authority.
6. Information concerning the provision of appropriate accommodation placements for young people in care, and how the transfer of this responsibility to the Aftercare team operates, will be available at the meeting.
7. Michelle Lee, Aftercare Service Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services, will also attend the meeting to answer Member's questions.
8. Members are asked to consider the future work programme and identify any other information they would like to receive before the conclusion of this review.

## **Recommendations**

9. 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