

Overview and Scrutiny

Response to Recommendations

Title of review	From Care to Independence
Date review completed	May 2011
Chair of the Review	Councillor Fiona Asbury
Lead Officer	Steve Edwards
Email	steve.edwards@nottsc.gov.uk
Telephone	977 4782
Total number of pages	10

Guidance

The final report of the above review has been considered by Cabinet and responses are now required to the recommendations contained within the report. Follow this three step response to each recommendation which are set out on an individual page in this document.

PART ONE

Response from the Cabinet Member/Executive to recommendation, to be completed two months after publication of review

PART TWO

Response from the Department to progress on carrying out recommendation, to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

PART THREE

Additional comments or further action required, to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee.

- Should you need further assistance in completing this response, please contact the Lead Scrutiny Officer above. Visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/scrutiny for a copy of the review.



Recommendation 1 (of 7)

We should ask Central Government to consider allowing care leavers to retain their welfare benefits if they continue in education.

PART ONE to be completed **two** months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☐ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☒ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

There are mechanisms already in place for care leavers and staff to contribute to the national lobby about this issue through organizations such as the Who Cares Trust, A National Voice and the National Care Advisory Service.

NCC policy already provides financial assistance for children leaving care in line with statutory guidance (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3 – section 23 C (4) (b)). This places a duty on the LA to provide assistance with the expenses associated with education and training and allows the LA to provide financial support in lieu of rent and personal income benefits up to age 25 years.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **xxxx Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

Date provided

Not to be completed

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 2 (of 7)

Children in care and care leavers should have access to a range of employability opportunities within the County Council:

- including work inspiration events, taster events and priority for work experience opportunities
- priority for places on any future corporate scheme for apprenticeships
- a guaranteed interview for any job for which they have the appropriate qualifications.

In addition contractors for County Council services should be encouraged to offer employability opportunities in line with this commitment.

PART ONE to be completed **two** months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

NCC ensures that care leavers have access to a range of employability opportunities within the county council in a variety of ways. A Task Group has been set up to develop a programme of 3 work inspiration events within the Council this year. The first has taken place and was attended by 4 young people.

A meeting with the Princes Trust has been set up to consider the development of a basic skills programme for the most disadvantaged young people to support them in making the first step towards learning or employment .

The corporate scheme for apprenticeships has been developed by Futures Nottinghamshire and aims to offer up to 25 Apprenticeships this year across the Council to include care leavers. Care leavers needing additional support to complete an Apprenticeship will receive this from the designated Education, Employment and Training Advisers within the Aftercare Service.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **xxxx Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

Date provided

Not to be completed

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 3 (of 7)

The framework contract for the provision of supported accommodation includes accommodation which will provide the appropriate level of support needed by care leavers with low level or fluctuating mental and emotional needs.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

NCC is working to ensure that all care leavers including those who have low level or fluctuating mental health and emotional needs are provided with the appropriate level of support that offers value for money. This is achieved through Social Care and Health Placements Team, through a tendering framework. The purpose of the framework is to have a stock of approved high quality support and accommodation providers, who will be commissioned on a planned and timely basis to provide our care leavers with a service that not only meets their accommodation needs but also promotes their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **xxxx Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

Date provided

Not to be completed

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 4 (of 7)

Analysis is undertaken of the scale and impact of the Southwark Judgment on Children's Services.

PART ONE to be completed **two** months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

To reduce the possible impact of the Southwark Judgement NCC has commissioned the development of a Youth Homelessness Strategy to be completed by Hostels Liaison Group (HLG). A draft strategy should be completed by end October 2011 with a proposal for consideration by Members available Jan 2012. The strategy aims to ensure that the needs of homeless young people in the County will be appropriately met.

The Targeted Support Service now provides support and advice for homeless young people aged 16 to 18 and where necessary ensures that appropriate accommodation is provided.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **xxxx Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

Date provided

Not to be completed

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 5 (of 7)

Further examination to identify that the 16 and 17 year old new entrants to the looked after system are receiving the support they need.

PART ONE to be completed **two** months after publication of review

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Date due

Date provided

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Please complete

In order to ensure 16-17 year olds receive the appropriate support District Housing Officers from across the county meet on a quarterly basis with Social Care Group Managers and representatives from Supporting People, Targeted Youth Support, Housing Providers, Hostel Liaison Group, Social care managers in order to ensure that the housing needs of young people entering and leaving the looked after system are met appropriately.

Targeted Youth Support service to young homeless people will be evaluated as part of the over arching Youth Homeless Strategy.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

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Date provided

Not to be completed

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

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Not to be completed

Recommendation 6 (of 7)

Consideration should be given to additional specialist emotional mental health support being made available for those vulnerable care leavers who do not meet the criteria for adult services.

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Please complete

Vulnerable care leavers who require additional specialist emotional mental health support who do not meet the criteria for adult services are referred to the Children Looked After and Adoption Team which is part of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. Support to young people can be direct if needed and if the young person is willing to engage in direct therapeutic work. This can include art therapy, life story work and counseling. In many cases, the Personal Adviser from the Aftercare Team can access consultation from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service worker to support them in their work.

Care leavers over 18 years are offered consultation with Children's Social Care Aftercare Service and then referred to the Increased Access to Psychological Therapies Team which is a countywide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy service.

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Not to be completed

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Recommendation 7 (of 7)

A system to monitor the key outcomes for care leavers at the point of case closure be implemented to be used to inform policy for looked after children.

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Please complete

The system used to monitor key outcomes for care leavers at the point of case closure (at age 21 or 25 years), will include the following:

- Last Looked After placement
- Age young person left care
- Accommodation aged 21 or 25
- Education, employment , training status
- Any significant issues ; parenthood, drug/alcohol misuse, offending
- Is young person engaged with adult services such as Mental Health , Learning Disabilities , Asbergers services, tenancy support
- An analysis of the level of contact with birth and extended family

Aftercare Team Managers will provide an annual report to include the above information for all young people closed to the service in the preceding year aged 21 or 25. The first report based on 2011 /2012 care leavers will be produced in May 2012.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

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Recommendation 1 (of 7)

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