

## Report



meeting **CABINET**

date 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011

agenda item number **9**

### **Report of the Chair of the Social Care & Health Standing Committee**

#### **Scrutiny of Care to Independence**

##### **Purpose of the report**

- 1 This paper presents for consideration by the Cabinet, recommendations from a scrutiny review of care to independence.

##### **Background**

- 2 The County Council's Social Care & Health Standing Committee undertakes reviews on issues that are of concern to Members. Each review reports its findings and can make recommendations for improvement.
- 3 Members of the Communities & the Environment Standing Committee recently completed a review which examined the issues with leaving care, including education, employment and training; as well as financial support.
- 4 The Review recognised that because of its role as a corporate parent the County Council should do more to assist care leavers in finding employment opportunities within the Authority.
- 5 A copy of the Review is attached as an appendix to this report. The Cabinet is invited to provide a response to the recommendations.
- 6 For ease of reference a summary of the review's recommendations also appears below:

- 1. Central Government should consider allowing care leavers to retain their welfare benefits if they continue in education.**
- 2. 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.**

- 3. 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.**
- 4. Analysis is undertaken of the scale and impact of the Southwark Judgment on Children’s Services.**
- 5. Further examination to identify that the 16 and 17 year old new entrants to the looked after system are receiving the support they need.**
- 6. 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.**
- 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.**

### **Recommendation**

- 7** It is recommended that:
- 8** Cabinet considers the report and recommendations of the Care to Independence Review - which are set out in Appendix 1 to this report - and that an appropriate Cabinet Member attends a meeting of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee within 2 months to provide a response.

**Councillor Ged Clarke  
Chair of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee**

**Legal Services Comments (SLB 17/6/11)**

It is appropriate for Cabinet to consider the content of this report. By virtue of paragraph 1.1.5 of the Delegation to Cabinet in Part 3 of the Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) Cabinet is to receive reports scrutinising the exercise of County Council functions from the Overview and Standing Committees, providing the proposals are consistent with the existing Budget and Policy Framework.

**Comments of the Service Director (Finance)**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the report.  
**(MB 28/6/11)**

**Background Papers:**

nil

**Electoral Divisions affected:**

all.