



Department
for Education

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London, SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.gov.uk/df

15 October 2018

To Kath O'Dwyer
Chief Executive
Cheshire East Council

Follow up visit by National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers.

Dear Kath

Thank you for hosting my follow up visit on 15 October. During the follow up visit I heard about the rapid progress you have made to your offer to care leavers since my two day formal visit earlier this year. I heard about the progress you have made regarding the new Corporate Parenting Duties that came into force on 1st April and how your elected members have embraced a 'Championing' approach which in essence enables elected members to get into the detail of the offer to care leavers. The housing offer and opportunities in the family business are two examples of where elected members have paid particular attention and as a result your Ignition Panel is ensuring that the Housing offer is good and data relating to EET has improved.

I also heard of your ambition to ensure care leavers have an offer from health up to 25yrs that is outside of eligibility and based on a needs led approach with clear ideas of redesigning a service to meet that need. Alongside this I heard about closer working relationships with your key partner agencies – DWP, Family Nurse Partnership, Mentors for care leavers through a commissioned approach with Pure Insight and a specialist worker in the team to support your UASC young people.

And finally how you have captured the voice of care leavers by engaging them in the co-production of the local offer which has extended to them being at the Corporate Parenting Board to ask the question 'is this good enough for your child'.

What I heard and saw is a very strong offer to care leavers and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

M. Riddell MBE

Mark Riddell MBE

National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers