

Appendix 1

Recommendations from Care Leavers Review 2012			
NO	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE	COMPLETED ON
13.1	<i>Changes to the processes that support care leavers</i>		
13.1.2	That the Council make attempts to delay the changing of the young person's Social Worker until after their exams have been completed and that an 'overlap' period be initiated in order to maintain a smooth transition. (p18 – para 6.8)	Transition is managed on an individual basis. Independent Safeguarding Chairs will consider appropriate timescales for transfer to 16plus service at review meetings. Young people's views will also be taken into consideration.	Completed
13.1.3	That the Council take steps to ensure that the Pathway Plan is an easy to use, easily understood and meaningful document for the young person. (p.19 – para 6.15).	A Pathway Plan Performance Group has been established. Training re the involvement of young people is being undertaken with staff. Following consultation with care leavers a new pathway plan format has been developed.	Completed
13.1.4	That young people become more engaged in the leaving care process with more opportunities provided for them to engage with and question the process that affects their lives. To support this, the Council should look to appoint a Participation Officer. (p20 – para 6.16).	Further work has been undertaken in relation to the formatting of pathway plans – care leavers have been involved in the development of this. Children's Society will assist in the further development of participation work. Care Leavers Council established.	Completed
13.1.5	That Foster Carers be given a key role in the leaving care and pathway planning process. (p20 – para 6.17).	Foster carers are now invited to contribute to all Pathway Plan meetings and their views are recorded in Pathway Plan part B.	Completed
13.1.6	That the Council ensure that the policy to provide adequate luggage to move a young person's belongings is being fully adhered to and continued until the age of 25. (p45 – para 10.35).	All staff are aware of the standards in relation to this expectation and every child and young person has access to appropriate luggage.	Completed
13.1.7	That the Council ensure that the young person's voice is fully listened to in the spending of the 'Leaving Care Grant'. (p45 – para 10.36).	In consultation with young people, the Leaving Care grant has now been increased from £2,000 to £3,000 – young person's wishes in respect of how this is to be spent are recorded in the pathway plan and personal advisors assist in the planning of this.	Completed
13.1.8	That a comprehensive but easy to use information pack be developed and given to every young person leaving care – to include; information on what they are entitled to, how to complete administration (setting up direct debits etc) and contact details of various agencies who they can turn to for help/advice. (p45 – para 10.37).	This was developed in partnership with young people – it is now complete, distributed to all young people and available on the website.	Completed

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NO	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE	COMPLETED ON

13.2	<i>Changes to how the support the Council provides to care leavers is structured</i>		
13.2.2	That alongside the Lead Member for Corporate Parenting, a non-Executive Councillor, with no Chairmanship duties, be appointed as a 'Cared for Children' champion to liaise with cared for children and to drive through the Corporate Parenting agenda and to monitor the outcomes of the Task Group reports on cared for children. (p21 – para 7.4).	This has not been progressed – it is the view of officers that all elected members are corporate parents and the Council also has a portfolio holder for children's services who chairs the Corporate Parenting Board. Establishment of this post may encourage others to relinquish their responsibilities.	Not yet progressed
13.2.3	That opportunity be provided for cared for children/care leavers to engage directly and informally with officers so that positive relationships can be established. Ideally, small satellite bases be made available in the North (Macclesfield) and in the South (Crewe) of the Borough enabling access to kitchen facilities and to Personal Advisors/youth support staff/careers advice. Consideration be given to increasing access to these teams through utilising Skype facilities. (p21 – para 7.4).	Teams are now relocated at Macclesfield Town Hall and Delamere House. The teams also work from the Youth Hubs in both areas where there is a good range of social media facilities.	Completed. Health now located with social work teams. Housing located alongside 16plus.
13.2.4	That the Council explore recruiting more Personal Advisors to bring down high caseloads (p22 – para 7.7).	The staffing establishment of the team has been reviewed and increased. (3 more social workers and 2 personal advisors) Currently recruiting to the new posts.	Completed
13.2.5	That the Council recruit a specialist Personal Advisor who is qualified to work with disabled young people. (p22 – para 7.10).	To be secured in the current round of recruitment.	Due for completion April 2014.
13.2.6	That the Council explore the appointment of a funding co-ordinator to have a strategic and practical lead in maximising income for children and adults coming through social care and health systems, including GPs and hospitals. (p28 – para 8.16).	Meetings have been held with Adult services in regard to access to welfare rights advisors. These workers will ensure that young people are advised re their entitlements etc.	Target date April 2014
13.3	<i>Training and support</i>		
13.3.2	That the Council provide easy to read and accessible guidance explaining the benefits entitlements of care leavers and current employability schemes offered under New Deal and Flexible New Deal. That this be developed with the support of the DWP and	Completed – now available on the council website. The development of a mobile phone App is also being explored.	Completed

	distributed to care leavers, leaving care teams, benefit and Jobcentre Plus Offices. (p28 – para 8.16).		
13.3.3	That the Council provide budget management training for cared for children. (p29 – para 8.16).	Plans in place to link young people into the Authorities Credit Union Membership.	Target date May 2014
13.3.4	That the Council explore initiating a mentoring scheme which would pair care leavers/young people with cared for children (p33 para 9.23).	Currently researching what happens in other local authorities. New Belongings Pilot also researching. Children's Society will also pick up.	Target date May 2014
13.3.5	That the Council explore initiating a mentoring scheme for foster carers with other experienced foster carers. (p38 – para 9.41).	This is in place. Experienced carers offer support to newly approved carers.	Completed
13.3.6	That foster carers be strongly encouraged to attend one education based training event a year. (p38 – para 9.41).	This is now incorporated into the mandatory expectations of foster carers.	Completed
13.3.7	That training events be made available for agency foster carers for a small charge. (p38 – para 9.41).	Not progressed as yet.	Not yet progressed.
13.3.8	That the Council provide a range of tenancy workshops for those care leavers due to move into social housing – focusing on developing life skills, budgeting skills and information on good neighbour behaviour. (p44 – para 10.31).	This will be developed as part of the New Belongings project with our collaborating authorities. Business event planned for March will also provide opportunities to drive this.	Target date June 2014
13.3.9	That the Council provide 'practical' life skills training for cared for children e.g., cooking, cleaning, minor DIY tasks, prior to the pathway plan process. (p44 – para 10.33).	Independence Skills Training Packs are developed. Personal Advisers as will take a role in developing this. This will be further developed as part of the New Belongings project with our collaborating authorities	Target date June 2014
13.4	Benefits		
13.4.2	That the Council explore paying landlords directly for those care leavers who are deemed unable to manage their budgets. (p28 – para 8.16).	CEC already pay rents for relevant young people (16 & 17 year olds) and have on occasions implemented this on an individual basis. Links are being made with the DWP in respect of developing a joint protocol re this.	Target date April 2014
13.4.3	That the Council encourage the Department for Work and Pensions to enable 'jam jar' accounts for Universal Credit Payments in order to help facilitate budget management. (p29 – para 8.16).	Discussions with DWP have been initiated. North West After Care forum providing info re best practice in relation to this. New Belongings project will also drive this forward.	Target date May 2014
13.4.4	That the Council work with the Department of Work and Pensions to enable young people to register for social housing at 17 years 6 months of age rather than at 18 to reduce pressure on the pathway planning process and double payment. (p28 – para	Joint protocol being developed.	Target date May 2014

	8.16).		
13.5	<i>Housing</i>		
13.5.2	That the Council explore how to implement a policy so that a young person can remain in their foster placement to complete any training or qualification that they have started prior to their 18 th birthday. (p42 – para 10.20).	Staying put (Shared Lives) policy established and there are three young people currently ' Staying Put'	Completed
13.5.3	That the Council explore extending the number of supported lodging placements that are available. (p42 – para 10.22).	CEC have commissioned Forum Housing to provide four more placements. Forum Housing are co-located with 16+ Crewe.	Completed Contract awarded April 2013.
13.5.4	That the Council explore providing semi-independent accommodation options for care leavers based on the following two models. (p43 – para 10.24): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small 3-4 bed units (staffed) with support available 24 hours a day. • In agreement with social housing associations, a small number of single bed tenancies be provided to accommodate 16 – 18 year old cared for young people with floating support being provided by Residential Service Care Staff. 	Service specification drafted. Housing strategy also redrafted to encompass the needs of care leavers. Views of care leavers contributed to the development of the service specification.	Target date April 2014 Target date June 2014
13.5.5	That the Council explore how foster carers and supported lodging hosts can retain meaningful relationships with a young person once they move into independent accommodation. (p43 – para 10.25).	Already in place – Foster carers are encouraged to retain contact and relationships as parents would.	Completed
13.5.6	That the Council ensure that care leavers in university can return to a foster/supported lodging placement during the vacation period. (p43 – para 10.27).	This has been revised in line with the recent Staying Put Policy. The Pathway Plan will reflect that accommodation will be available.	Target date April 2014
13.5.7	That the Council open discussions with the three housing associations that operate in the Borough with the aim of re-establishing a joint protocol to prioritise a quota of social housing for care leavers. (p44 – para 10.30).	Strategic Housing Review is underway – with a view to ensure care leavers have sufficient suitable accommodation. Initial meetings established with housing associations and protocol being developed.	Target date May 2014
13.5.8	That the Council explore either appointing or seconding a housing officer to generate supported	Work being undertaken with Housing colleagues to ensure sufficiency of choice and appropriate accommodation in place. Commissioning	completed

	lodging/semi-independent placements, build relationships with housing associations and facilitate workshops for care leavers. (p45 – para 10.38).	officer leading on the revision of the sufficiency statement for the council.	
13.5.9	That the Council take steps to reduce the chance of loneliness for when a young person moves into independent accommodation, e.g., ensuring that housing placements are close to friends when appropriate and that social networks are facilitated. (p44 – para 10.34).	This will be taken account of during the development of the pathway plan. The views of young people will be taken into account.	Target date June 2014
13.6	<i>Education, Employment and Training</i>		
13.6.2	That the Council explore increasing the allowance that is paid to those care leavers who go to university to encourage increased applications. (p33 – para 9.23).	Previous bursary of £2,000 for the duration of the course has been increased to £2,000 per annum. This was agreed after consultation with care leavers.	In place since late 2012. Completed
13.6.3	That targets are set to demonstrate year on year improvements in education outcomes, training outcomes and attendance levels for Cheshire East Cared for children. (p33 – para 9.24).	Targets and performance reporting now embedded in Management meetings and also reported to Corporate Parenting Board.	Completed
13.6.4	That targets are set to demonstrate a year on year decrease in the numbers of Cared for children aged 19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).	This is regularly reported to Management teams and Corporate Parenting Board.	Completed
13.6.5	That the Council extend the remit of the Virtual School from 19 to 25. (p33 – para 9.24).	Scoping exercise currently underway. Intention is to increase and target the resource.	Target date May 2014
13.6.6	That the Council encourage secondary schools to retain a link with a young person in care once they enter further education. (p34 – para 9.24).	Currently under discussion via Virtual School.	Target date May 2014
13.6.7	That the Council encourage secondary schools and sites of further education to apply for the Buttle UK Quality Mark. (p34)	Being explored via the Virtual School.	Target date June 2014
13.6.8	That the Council initiate a programme of support to better prepare cared for children for the demands of work. That this include (p34 – 35): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An incremental approach to work experience – beginning with taster days and ending with increasingly tailored and intensive work experience placements. Working with the 	Apprenticeship Scheme – examining a portfolio of offers to care leavers. Business event scheduled for March 2014 where local businesses will	Target date May 2014.

	<p>Government's 'From Care2Work' programme to support this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council adopting a policy in which a work experience placement would be available to a cared for child every week of the year. • The Council strongly encouraging cared for children to participate and complete life skill development courses with existing (Prince's Trust) and newly developed partnerships. 	<p>be requested to identify ways on which they might support care leavers.</p> <p>A number of Care Leavers embark upon the Prince's Trust.</p>	
13.6.9	That the Council initiate the business case for Care Leavers accessing apprenticeships as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.	<p>This year (2013) there are three places identified for care experienced young people to embark upon CEC apprenticeships. Further developments in relation to the offer of apprenticeships/work experience are anticipated.</p> <p>The New Belongings pilot will assist in driving this.</p>	Nominations have been made for this year.
13.6.10	That the Council ensure that Personal Advisors are provided with sufficient training so that there is a consistency of service across the team. That this includes training on care leavers' entitlements and need. (p22 – para 7.8).	<p>Training to be provided through the Staff Development Service, once identified.</p> <p>Training plan to be drawn up once additional workers recruited.</p>	Target date May 2014

Recommendations from Health and Cared for Children Review 2012			
NO	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE	COMPLETED ON
1.	<i>Mental Health Needs</i>		
1. (a)	That all foster carers and residential support staff receive training to enable them to deal with mild mental health needs that don't need referring to the C4ST. This should include awareness raising of other services such as Kooth; Visyon and the School Nurse Service;	Completed and ongoing as new carers join us.	Completed
1. (b)	That research is commissioned into adopted children from in and out of the borough who may have potential emotional, behavioural or mental health issues in order to ascertain a clear picture of the support which children and their adopters may need at an early stage in their placement;	This research is currently being done nationally by the Childrens Rights Director.	Completed
1. (c)	That consideration is given to increasing the amount of support available from the Education Psychologist and also to employing a Clinical Psychologist.	Service has adequate support currently as health resource has been doubled. This will be continually reviewed.	Completed
2.	<i>Health Assessments and Sexual Health</i>		
2. (a)	That consideration be given to improving the quality of mental health assessment for all children so as to give adequate time to covering this important issue.	Strengths and Difficulty questionnaire (SDQ) process for assessment the mental health needs of children has been strengthened. Sharing of information in relation to this is progressing well.	Completed
2. (b)	That consideration be given to whether a Mental Health Nurse with Family Planning experience could be employed to work with the 16+ group of young people and the leaving care workers.	A specialist 16plus nurse with CAMHS experience has been recruited.	Completed
3.	<i>Health Booklet</i>		
3. (a)	That any reprint of the booklet includes information about the availability of free prescriptions for 16 – 18 year olds who are in full time education.	Information about the availability of free prescriptions for 16-18 year olds in full time education will be included when the booklet is reprinted.	April 2014
4.	<i>Youth Support in Relation to Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Misuse</i>		
4. (a)	That the relevant Scrutiny Committee receive an early briefing on the Cheshire East Youth Service in order to examine and review the new service and in particular the work that will be done to	The Community Safety Scrutiny Committee has been asked to consider whether to add a briefing on the Cheshire East Youth Service to its Work Programme	Scrutiny meeting to be agreed

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	target Cared for Children.		

5.	<i>Leisure Passes and Sport Fitness</i>		
5. (a)	That some form of provision be made for Cared for Children who are placed out of borough to still access free leisure facilities in the same way as C4Cs who are placed in borough. The Group suggests this could be done by way of a small personal budget for each C4C to follow them around in their out of area placement(s). The Group feels this would ensure that C4Cs who are out of area are able to continue to participate in sport/activities they enjoy; promotes health and wellbeing and ensures they receive the same provision as an in-borough C4C	Discussions ongoing currently with other LAs and reciprocal arrangements to be explored. This will be addressed through the New Belongings project.	Target date May 2014
5. (b)	That the availability of the free leisure pass be widely promoted to C4Cs; foster carers and residential staff as well as social care staff and any other staff who are responsible for working with C4Cs. This should include information about what the pass itself provides as well as how and where it can be accessed; for foster carers it could be provided as part of their "Be Healthy" training	Completed and take up etc regularly reported to Corporate Parenting Board	Completed
5. (c)	That consideration be given to enabling a C4C's friend who is attending to participate in sport with them to receive a reduced price entry where the activity requires more than one person, for example, a badminton game which cannot be played alone	Yet to be considered. Potential topic for consideration by the Children and Families Policy Development Group.	Yet to be considered
5. (d)	The Bikeability scheme be promoted to C4Cs, foster carers and residential staff as well as social care staff and any other staff who are responsible for working with C4Cs, along with the availability of funding towards purchasing a bike	Yet to be considered. Potential topic for consideration by the Children and Families Policy Development Group.	Yet to be considered
6.	<i>Children from Out of Area</i>		
6. (a)	Protocols are developed for use between the council and other local authorities to ensure that children from out of the area who are adopted in Cheshire East receive funded support for any mental health needs for a three year period.	This is already set in legislative requirements.	Completed

7.	<i>Cared for Children who are Parents</i>		
7. (a)	That priority be given to investigating how mum and baby foster care is best provided in Cheshire East;	Currently being explored through the sufficiency statement in Cheshire East.	Target date May 2014
7. (b)	That the relevant Scrutiny Committee receive a report on the work of the Family Nurse Partnership in twelve months time in order to examine and review the new service and its outcomes	The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has been asked to consider whether to add a report of the Family Nurse Partnership to its Work Programme	Scrutiny Meeting to be agreed
8.	<i>Support on Leaving Care</i>		
	<i>Covered by Care Leavers Review 2012</i>		
9.	<i>Promoting Fostering</i>		
9. (a)	That the relevant Scrutiny Committee receive a report on progress and outcomes of the Fostering Services Review in order to examine how the system has improved since the Review took place	Fostering performance regularly reported to Policy Development Group C and F and also Corporate Parenting Board.	Completed
9. (b)	That a senior officer be identified to have responsibility for Cared for Children with very specific health needs, to be responsible for the coordination of their care and ensure foster carers have appropriate training and respite provision	Principal Manager Cared for Children	Completed
9. (c)	That consideration is given to introducing an annual Welcome to Cheshire East evening for foster carers and Cared for Children as well as a Thank You event for foster carers to recognise their dedication and hard work	Welcome event introduced with the first event held in December 2013 in Middlewich. Celebration event planned for later this year.	Completed
10.	<i>Multi Agency Working and Information Sharing</i>		
10. (a)	A healthy care partnership be formed and that a multi agency self assessment be undertaken as a starting point to further service developments	To be progressed. Currently under discussion with Corporate Parenting Board Operational Group.	Target date June 2014