

October 2015 Progress and Impact Review – ESCC inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

The experiences and progress of Care Leavers							RAG
4.	Ensure that there is suitable and sufficient accommodation available for all vulnerable young people, to avoid the continued use of bed and breakfast (B&B) provision as a last resort.	<p>i) Carry out an updated needs analysis to identify range of young people who will need increased support at this level</p> <p>ii) Establish short life task and finish group to review possible options going forward, including streamlining and reconfiguring existing services to better support Care Leavers.</p> <p>iii) Report back to Children's Services Senior Management Team with option appraisal.</p>	Sally Carnie/ Teresa Lavelle Hill	Sept 2014	Number and range of housing options available to vulnerable young people including: vulnerable 16 – 18 olds Care Leavers	<p>This is being taken forward by the short life Care Leavers' Task and Finish Group/SMT. Any options to increase the range of housing options will need to involve re-configuration of existing services within current resources.</p> <p>An additional allocation of £184k for "Staying Put Arrangements" has been allocated by the DfE for 2015/16. The ESCC Staying Put policy has been reviewed.</p> <p>The use of Lee Rd and Fort Rd has been reviewed. There are now 8 beds available to Care Leavers 18+ where there is a move on plan from Supported Lodgings.</p> <p>Interim report received by SMT as part of RPPR process. Further negotiations are underway with the Districts and Boroughs.</p>	Yellow
5.	Improve training opportunities for all staff to ensure that the quality of pathway planning for Care Leavers aged 16 and 17 is improved so that	i) Jointly with Care Leavers reference group, develop specialist training offer for all staff working with older looked after children, and Care	Sally Carnie/ Teresa Lavelle-Hill	Jan 2015	<p>Audit of Pathway Plans</p> <p>Feedback from the Care Leavers User Group</p>	The Pathway Plan and Risk Assessment tool is now in place. A bespoke training offer has been developed to provide the specialist knowledge and expertise for all staff working with this client group.	Green

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	the plans are clearer and are much more meaningful to help in supporting young people as they move towards independent living.	<p>Leavers to deliver more comprehensive needs assessment and Pathway Planning tools.</p> <p>ii) Develop consistent process for the storage and acquisition of all key documents for looked after children and Care Leavers; i.e. National Insurance numbers, birth certificates, passports, etc.</p> <p>iii) Review current information regarding legal entitlements, financial support, etc. and ensure it is disseminated widely.</p> <p>iv) All Care Leavers to be offered welfare/benefits advice (explore links with voluntary organisations).</p>		<p>Sept 2014</p> <p>Dec 2014</p>		<p>The Service has a process for storing all valuable documents and Care Leavers now have all key documents available to them.</p> <p>A review of entitlements has taken place and the revised offer is currently in the process of being uploaded onto the 360 degree website. This will ensure the greatest level of availability/access to young people.</p> <p>Links with seconded staff from Department of Work and Pensions in the Early Help Service have been strengthened.</p>
6.	Ensure that a better range of employment and training opportunities are available for post-18 Care Leavers.	i) Review planning and performance documentation to identify how each service area will incorporate care leavers in to the development of their service.	Teresa Lavelle-Hill/ Caroline McKiddie	<p>June 2014</p> <p>Report to Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) Sept</p>	<p>%of care leavers who go on to university (Council Plan -Children's Services Department [CSD])</p> <p>% of care leavers who take up an apprenticeship linked to ESCC</p>	Each service has identified in their Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) an employability opportunity for a care leaver. This will need to be monitored via Departmental Management Team (DMT).

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		<p>ii) Ensure the needs of Care Leavers are clearly articulated in ESCC Employability and Skills Strategy.</p> <p>iii) Develop an internal process which matches Care Leavers to a full range of work experience within the County Council.</p>	<p>Teresa Lavelle-Hill/Louise Carter</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>June 2014</p> <p>June 2014</p>	<p>(Council Plan - CSD)</p> <p>Provide job interview guarantees to People on ESCC programmes for Care Leavers, people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Portfolio Plan – Communities, Economy and Transport [CET])</p> <p>Number of Pathways to Employment scheme placements for Care Leavers, people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Council Plan - CET)</p>	<p>The Virtual School and Head of Service for Looked after Children has ensured that targets for employability opportunities have been identified in the ESCC Employability and Skills strategy.</p> <p>A clear process for setting up and matching care leavers to work experience and apprenticeships across the council has been agreed with Personnel. A rolling programme of support to care leavers with the application process and interview preparation is also in place. Asylum seekers are routinely referred and included in this work.</p> <p>Examples of ongoing support as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES offer support up to 21, • ISEND assessment and planning/EHCP post 16 processes, • the Virtual School has embedded a 16+ caseworker in the Care Leaver service which also links with transitions, the pupil premium 	

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						<p>funds education related activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 16 Education Providers monitor engagement on a termly basis. • ESCC is also now part of a national network focussing on the education of Care Leavers
7.	<p>Ensure that all Care Leavers receive appropriate independence training to equip them with sufficient skills to help them to live independently.</p>	<p>i) With input from the Care Leavers reference group, develop and deliver a specific independence training programme for Care Leavers.</p>	<p>Sally Carnie/ Teresa Lavelle-Hill</p>	<p>Jan 2015</p>	<p>Audit of Pathway Plans</p> <p>Feedback from the Care Leavers User Group</p>	<p>Independence training will continue to be offered via foster carers and supported lodgings providers to ensure care leavers develop independence skills whilst in placement. Care Leavers staff deliver core training to foster carers and supported lodgings providers.</p> <p>East Sussex children's group homes continue to work with young people to develop independence skills</p> <p>Personal advisers will utilise Targeted Youth Support facilities across the county to deliver independence skills training. Life Skills groupwork has been accredited by AQA and will be rolled out via groupwork and/or individually.</p>