

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC):- ACTION PLAN			
SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION		DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN	TIMESCALE
R1	The Children's Services Department to explore the potential for linking local UASC with the Hastings and Rother Buddy Project (HBRP) and, subject to the outcome of its work with the HRBP, to assess the feasibility of developing similar provision elsewhere within East Sussex in partnership with the voluntary sector.	The link with HBRP has been established following the Scrutiny Committee Review. Currently the project is only appropriate for young people aged 18 years or over. Children's Services will explore with HBRP how to use their experience, knowledge and resources in this field to develop something similar for younger children across East Sussex.	January 2020
R2	The Children's Services Department to assess the feasibility of developing in East Sussex a social space for UASC where they can meet with their peers and build their confidence, support networks and social skills.	Throughout the summer period the UASC team piloted a 'drop in' group for young people. The 'drop in' provided a social space, but was also attended by guest speakers including professionals from Health, Police and the Refugee Council. The Children's Service is now planning how to best roll the pilot out on a permanent basis.	November 2019

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<p>R3 With a view to increasing both the amount and diversity of accommodation provision, the Children's Services Department to explore further the options for raising awareness amongst local communities of the specific accommodation needs of UASC. This to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing its advertising campaigns to include an element which highlights the specific needs of UASC. • assisting Members to foster connections with different sections of their local communities. • more cultural awareness training for existing foster carers and supported accommodation providers which seeks to address this need. 	<p>The UASC team will work in partnership with fostering colleagues to review local recruitment processes and learn from other Fostering Services on how best to raise awareness of the needs of this specific group of young people.</p> <p>The service will develop a toolkit to assist Members locally</p> <p>A training programme will be developed by the UASC team for supported accommodation providers.</p> <p>The UASC team will have a direct input to foster carer training and develop a bespoke programme to meet the local need. This will include some input from the young people already cared for by ESCC.</p>	<p>October 2019</p> <p>February 2020</p> <p>December 2019</p> <p>November 2019</p>

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<p>R4 The Children's Services Department to explore the options for increasing access to work experience opportunities for UASC. This to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessing the potential for the Department to raise awareness of the work experience needs of UASC with schools and colleges and to review the current levels of work experience placements for UASC. <p>Members to support this process by using their local leadership position to help raise awareness of the work experience needs of UASC and to help foster more work experience placements with public sector organisations and the voluntary sector.</p>	<p>The UASC team has developed links with the work experience coordinator in order to offer wider opportunities to this group of young people. The experiences of the current UASC cohort will inform the offer going forward. This will better equip potential providers with the requirements of this particular group of young people, including issues such as the limitations imposed by their immigration status etc.</p> <p>The UASC team will include support to Members in the toolkit.</p>	<p>December 2019</p> <p>February 2020</p>

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R5	<p>The Children's Services Department to explore how an increased early focus on English as an additional language could be provided to UASC. This to include a review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Department's guidance to UASC and officers on this area; and • the potential feasibility of providing intensive language courses which could include commissioning accommodation providers to deliver intensive support packages within the first 4-6 weeks of arrival. 	<p>An Education Specialist has been appointed into the UASC team and will develop guidance which will focus on the provision of this support to young people.</p> <p>The UASC team has developed a close partnership with the East Sussex EALS service to deliver English language lessons to UASC where appropriate.</p> <p>The department has identified a charity called ETC who operate an English Language School in Hastings. Over the summer period they have been able to run small group sessions for UASC. The UASC team and ETC will collaborate and explore if there is any wider support that could be provided to these young people, particularly in relation to spontaneous arrivals.</p> <p>A mini competition exercise will be instigated through a framework agreement for providers to deliver intensive packages of support via contractual arrangements.</p>	<p>January 2020</p> <p>October 2019</p> <p>October 2019</p> <p>October 2019</p>

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<p>R6 To help expand the range of support available in East Sussex, the Children's Services Department to develop a UASC toolkit for Members The toolkit to provide guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the key challenges facing UASC – such as accommodation needs, opportunities for social activities, access to work experience and English language support; • what assistance is currently available for UASC; • how Members can develop links with key organisations and communities. • the process for referring potential leads to the Department. 	<p>The UASC team will develop a toolkit for Members drawing on local expertise and the input of the Principal Social Worker for the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration.</p>	<p>February 2020</p>