PRACTICE TIPS – PATHWAY PLANS – PWP – Jan 2019

This set of documents have been put together to assist SW in the daily WHAT and HOW of their work.

The aim being to provide a quick overview of a topic with signposts to links that may help if you are unsure.

This Document is in draft form, as the views and comments of practitioners is being sought prior to document finalisation.

These Documents will be reviewed in Feb 2019 and finalised in March 2019.

These documents set out some ideas for SG to consider in terms of Guidance for practitioners which will -

* standardise practice, - consistency and quality
* develop learning culture on what works and why
* Develop the ability to look at impact – better understanding of the child’s experience
* Provide an evidence-based tool
* Enable decision making to be more timely
* Children’s outcomes to be more specific in terms of their experiences

WHAT

A PWP is not only a plan about supporting the YP into independence, it is a plan that sets out the duties and responsibilities of the LA in ensuring the YP needs are met up to the age of 21 and if necessary or requested up to 25

The PWP outlines skills and strengths alongside areas for further development, plus what supports are required in order to achieve the YP goals and aspirations

“*The Pathway Plan should be pivotal to the process whereby young people map out their future, articulating their aspirations and identifying interim goals along the way to realising their ambitions. It will also play a critical part in making the new arrangements contained within the Act work*”.

“*The Authority should work to ensure that the plan is owned by the young person and is able to respond to their changing needs and ambitions. It should look ahead at least as far as the young person's 21st birthday and will be in place beyond that where the young person is in a programme of education or training which takes them past that age*”.

Department of Health Guidance on the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Why

The Children & Social Work Act 2017 and Children Leaving Care Act 2000 places statutory duties and responsibilities on Local Authorities to ensure all care leavers are supported into independence in a planned and measured manner

This support needs to relate to the YP needs, wishes and feelings, dreams and aspirations. As corporate parent for these YP it is morally, ethically and legally correct that the responsibility to these YP lies beyond the age of 18. Everyone needs support to navigate their journey into adulthood and independence, it is the purpose of the PWP to ensure this navigation is clearly set out with expectations, duties and contingency plans should it not work

Musts

PWP with a YP must begin before their 16th birthday

PWP must be undertaken in consultation with the YP and include their wishes and feelings. If a YP is not able to engage in this process then the LA must engage with other agencies and individuals who know the YP in order that the plan reflects them as an individual, their needs and aspirations.

PWP must contain a contingency plan, which is clearly set out and in what circumstances it will be activated.

 The Plan must contain details around financial responsibilities and any supports required to access services and needs

The Plan Must include health and lifestyle and what the LA will do to support this

PWP must detail what Education support is required and if additional tools to achieve this ie lap top need to be provided. Personal Education Plans must feed into the PWP

The plan must address what steps are needed to support the YP into employment or purposeful activity

The PWP must outline what support the YP requires in relation to contact matters with family, friends, carers and support networks

PWP Must be reviewed minimum of 6 monthly

Must provide the YP with a copy of the plan

Top Tips

Treat this as an agreement between the YP and the LA – therefore review and ensure it is fit for purpose over a period of time

The Pathway Plan must clearly identify the roles of each person who has a part to play in supporting the care leaver.

Be explicit, avoid ambiguity and ensure it reflects the LA statutory duties to the care Leaver

If a specific need is presented the PWP should reflect how this need will be met ie becoming a parent, Mental health issues, debt etc

The PWP should not be a to do list but a means of capturing and recording the aspirations and dreams of the Young Person and how these can be achieved.

Attached - feedback from Care Leavers regarding Pathway Plans and their Top Tips

