

Title/Status-	Terms of Reference
New document or revised	New document
Date approved SMT	December 2019
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Service Looked after Children, Virtual School, Fostering & Adoption
Date review	December 2020

Leicestershire Procedure for Terms of Reference 2019- Risk Management Panel for Relevant and Former Relevant Care Leavers

Terms of Reference 2019

Risk Management Panel for Relevant and Former Relevant Care Leavers

Background

Around 10,000 young people leave care in England each year aged between 16-18 years old¹. They leave home at a younger age and have more abrupt transitions to adulthood than their peers. Unlike their peers who normally remain in the family home, care leavers will often be living independently at age 18. Information from the Children Right's Director's surveys² on care leavers and Children in Care Council (CICC) meetings show that many care leavers feel that they leave care too early and often feel isolated and lonely.

(Extract from the 'Care Leaver Strategy' A cross-departmental strategy for young people leaving care. October 2013. HM Government).

Research and inspection reports show that the quality of support care leavers receive is patchy and that their journey through the first decade of adult life is often disrupted, unstable and troubled. They often struggle to cope and this can lead to social exclusion, long term unemployment or involvement in crime. A recent report informed the Queen Speech to set out the Government agenda for Children in Care and Care Leavers highlighting the need to provide consistent and sustainable support to Care Leavers. (In Care, Out of Trouble How the life chances of children in care can be transformed by protecting them from unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system An independent review chaired by Lord Laming 2016)

Within Leicestershire County Council Care Leavers are supported through the Children in Care Service. They have a personal advisor who enables them to make positive life choices and supports them when they struggle.



Positivity



Trust and respect



Flexibility



Openness and transparency

Prior to being a Care leaver Children In Care are supported by a qualified social worker and have Pathway plan which is over seen by the Independent Reviewing Officer. At 18 the support and scrutiny of the IRO service is ended.

The personal advisor will oversee the Pathway Plan with the young person and involve the views of the young and other people involved with the young person's life as appropriate.

Within Leicestershire we want to develop a system of monitoring the young people in a holistic way to enable services to be dynamic and fluid to meet the needs of the young people as a group and also identify and manage risk in a multi-agency approach, for individual Care Leavers

Research and recent reports reflect the views of Care Leavers as feeling vulnerable and isolated as well as little support post 18. In Leicestershire we are aware of that research and are very clear to ensure they young people have the support and guidance they need and require even when they are having a difficult time and not able to make positive choices.

Leicestershire County Council has signed the Care Leavers Charter. As an Authority we aware of the need to be aware of our Care Leaver Population and they are given the best opportunities and services as they reach and enter adulthood.

Purpose

To enable the Children in Care Service and partners to have a clear monthly update for our care leavers in the 5 main areas : In Suitable accommodation, In Education Employment or Training and in Contact with the department. We will also monitor involvement with youth and adult justice systems as well as health services.

Confidentiality

The young people being supported by this panel are known to Children Social Care. To enable effective multi agency support to be given, the names of the young people can be shared with partner agencies. The information is not to be shared or used for any other purpose than to ensure we are providing young people with the best support we can.

Any Breach of that confidentiality should be reported as soon as it is known.

Process

This 'Red Amber Green' scaling (see appendix 1) will be completed by the Personal Advisors for all Relevant and Former Relevant Care Leavers monthly.

The Service manager Children In care will provide the panel with the Red Rated care leavers two weeks before the next panel to enable input from other agencies. This will be sent Via secure email.



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Care Leavers who have a rating of Red for a period of 2 months in any of the areas will be discussed at the Care leavers Panel. It is anticipated that the panel will have representation from Children in Care Team, Health, Prospects, YOS and Probation, Police and the Independent Review Officers. The panel will be chaired by the Service Manager Children In Care Service. This Panel will meet bi-monthly.

The provision of this data will identify areas of risk and drift more clearly and provide a forum in which clear strategies can be identified in how to move this forward. It will also identify areas of improvement and would enable us to identify what intervention has led to positive outcomes. The lives of our care leavers can be fluid which is why it is important the scaling takes place monthly to capture a whole picture of their journey.

Membership of the panel

If the identified members can't attend they are responsible for identifying a replacement (names removed for purpose of publishing)

Job Title/Organisation
CiC Service Manager, Chair
Service Manager – Safeguarding
Team Manager, CiC
Team Manager, CiC
Team Manager, CiC
Locality Manager, Transitions
Improvement Officer – Post 16
Team Manager, Placement & Commissioning
YOS
Team Manager, YOS
DBSEC
Health
Health
Health
HMPS
Leicestershire police
Leicestershire police
Leicestershire police
Missing Persons Team, Leics Police
Prospects
Chief Officer The Bridge
The Bridge
The Bridge
The Bridge
The Bridge

Working together



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Prior to the panel all Stakeholders will review their records to ensure the latest information informs the decision making for the young people.

At the meeting discussions will be held to ensure that if for example, the young person is not engaging with their social care worker but they are with the YOS worker then this is reflected and a working together plan is drawn up.

Where there is dispute or challenge then this will be dealt with by the chair.

Analysis

Strategically it is critical that we as Stakeholders use the information on an overarching scale to ensure there are effective systems in place to support this vulnerable group.

The Service manager CIC will be discussed and report outcomes from our working together, i.e. where patterns/trends arise across education/training, health or safety – the information will be fed into the appropriate strategic group i.e. Strategic health for LAC, Strategic Education for LAC or NEET group.

The Service manager CIC will ensure the information is fed into the Corporate Parenting Board.

Angie Lymer-Cox

November 2016



Positivity



Trust and respect



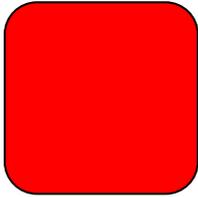
Flexibility



Openness and transparency

Appendix 1

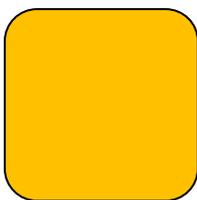
In Contact



No contact has been made for over the 6 weeks statutory expectation (6-7 weeks) when The Young person is identified as being vulnerable over and above being a care leaver (Mental Health, CSE, learning needs)

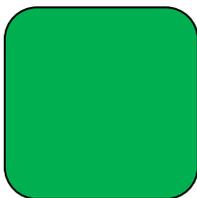
No contact has been made for over the 6 weeks statutory expectation (10-12 weeks) where there is no additional vulnerability.

Attempts have been made to make contact over and above just trying to make contact directly with the Young person.



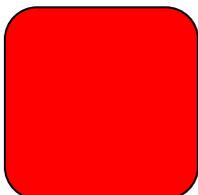
There has been no contact for over 2 weeks, with regular attempts. The Young person is identified as being vulnerable over and above being a care leaver (Mental Health, CSE, learning needs). Raised as amber to ensure all avenues of contact are attempted. If there are significant concerns regarding the young person's vulnerability or risk taking behaviour this may need to escalate to red.

Contact is inconsistent and needs a more creative approach to engage the young person. The Young person is not identified as being vulnerable over and above being a care leaver.



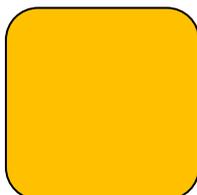
Contact is regular and in line with the statutory requirements of every 6 weeks.

In Employment, Education or Training (EET)



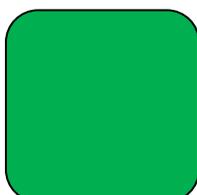
The young person has not been in Employment, Education or Training for a period of 3 months. They are not engaging positively with the Prospects Service.

The young person has not been in Employment, Education or Training for a period of 6 months but are engaging well with the Prospects Service.



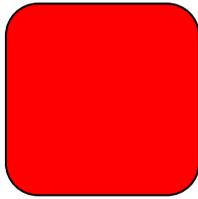
The young person has not been in Employment, Education or Training for a period of 3 months but are engaging with the Prospects Service

The Young person is engaging with EET but is at risk of this ending either due to non-attendance, disengagement or poor behaviour.



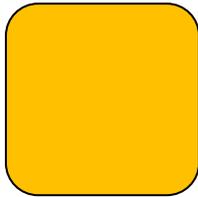
The young person is engaged with Education, Employment or Training.

Suitable Accommodation



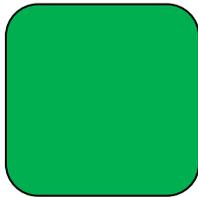
The young person is homeless, in prison, sofa surfing or living in inappropriate accommodation where their vulnerability is increased.

The young person does not identify their accommodation as being safe and secure.



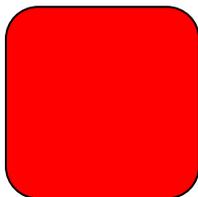
The young person is at risk of homelessness.

Is not engaging with the support attached to their housing, is at risk of housing rent arrears.



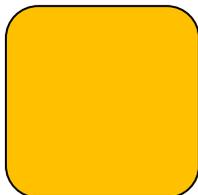
The young person is in suitable accommodation in which they feel safe and secure.

Involvement with youth and adult justice system



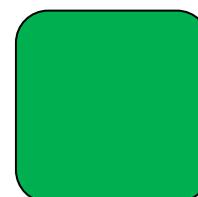
The young person is regularly engaging in criminal behaviour and/or antisocial behaviour and has ongoing involvement with the youth and adult justice system, but they are disengaged from the support

The young person is due to be released from YOI or prison



The young person is regularly engaging in criminal behaviour and has ongoing involvement with the youth and adult justice system, they are engaging from the support being provided.

The young person is in YOI or prison but not due for release.



The young person is not involved with criminal activity or anti-social behaviour



Positivity



Trust and respect

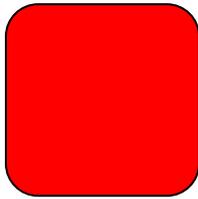


Flexibility

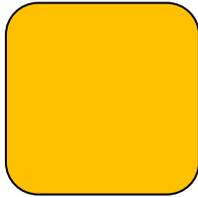


Openness and transparency

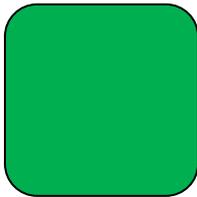
Involvement with Health both Physical or Mental Health



The young person is involved at a high level with health services including mental health. Plans are not clear and agencies are not developing appropriate plans



The young person is in need of health services but struggles to engage. Plans are clear. But the young person is at risk if they don't engage



The young person has health service support as appropriate. All appropriate health services are in place and accessible.