

REPORT TO:	Corporate Parenting Panel 5 September 2018
SUBJECT:	Care Leavers' Local Offer
LEAD OFFICER:	Wendy Tomlinson, Head of Service, Looked after Children and Resources
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Alisa Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: Ambition 2 – Helping Our Residents to be as Independent as Possible - Safeguarding	
FINANCIAL IMPACT: No new impact Not applicable as this report is for information only	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS Not applicable as this report is for information only
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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires Local Authorities to publish a 'Local Offer' for care leavers by September 2018 covering the following areas
- Health and Wellbeing
 - Relationships
 - Education and Training
 - Employment
 - Accommodation
 - Participation in Society
- 2.2 The local offer detailed at Appendix A has been compiled in consultation with care experienced young people and will be published in September 2018.
- 2.3 The Corporate Parenting Panel's feedback is welcomed.
- 2.4 The Local Offer is a dynamic document and will be reviewed at least annually

3. DETAIL OF YOUR REPORT

Context

- 3.1 The Local Offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers from the local authority, including information about their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that the local authority chooses to provide. The offer should set out what support all local authority departments will provide, having regard to the seven Corporate Parenting Principles
- 3.2 The local offer should be easily available and accessible to all care leaver, which may mean it is available in a number of formats and languages as appropriate. Personal advisers are expected to share and promote the offer with care leavers they work with and make sure they are aware of the services they are entitled to.
- 3.3 The Croydon Local Offer is intended to be a comprehensive document which goes beyond the minimum requirement of what has to be published and which can act as a directory or reference point for a range of services that young people can access. It does however outline clearly what the statutory offer is for care leavers at a range of ages and circumstances.
- 3.4 The language used is intended to be friendly for young people, and the use of a young person's journey used to illustrate how the offer works in practice.

Publication and Distribution

- 3.3 A number of methods are proposed for distribution in order to ensure the offer is accessible to as many young people as possible.
- 3.4 The online version of the offer gives the optimised way of accessing it, as this version contains hyperlinks, videos and an audio-narration. This will be uploaded to the Croydon website as soon as possible after sign-off. Personal advisers, social workers, foster carer and independent reviewing officers will be encouraged to support young people to access it in this way.
- 3.5 A print run of hard copies will be completed in order that all current care leavers can have a copy. Personal advisers will ensure all the young people they support have a copy.
- 3.6 Smaller print runs in the top 5 languages used by care leavers will be made – these are Albanian, Pashto, Tigrinya, Arabic and Dari.
- 3.7 During the autumn of 2018, progression towards launch of the Care Leavers App will be completed. This will allow young people to access key information on their smart phone or tablet, and is available off-line. This app also has a translation facility and, along with a range of other features, allows care leavers to see the local offer summarised in an easy to read and accessible way.
- 3.8 Further work will be undertaken during autumn 2018 about production of a version with symbols suitable for people with learning disabilities.

Next Steps

- 3.9 Work will continue on expanding the offer wherever possible by ensuring that in line with the Corporate Parenting Principles, the whole council offer is developed. This will be done as part of the ongoing improvement journey in Children's Services and the development of a louder voice for care experienced young people.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Care leavers have been consulted in drawing up the local offer in the following ways:
- Encouragement to complete feedback forms whilst attending the Turnaround Centre and engaging with their personal adviser
 - Consultation session in June 2018 about use of a Care Leaver App to assist with access to the local offer
 - Consultation session in August 2018 about the draft local offer documents
 - Attendance at the Children in Care Council to talk about the local offer
- 4.2 Care leavers have been positive about the layout, content and style of the written local offer and the provision of an audio version, and have also welcomed the moves to commission a care leaver App as a key way of knowing their entitlements
- 4.3 They have given feedback about where they see gaps in the offer, which are in relation to suitable, affordable local housing, support for emotional needs, and council tax relief for young people living in other Boroughs
- 4.4 A number of Croydon council departments and external partners have contributed to the offer, including Housing, Gateway, CALAT, Croydon Works, Early Help, Youth Participation, LAC health services
- 4.5 A presentation about the offer took place at the Chief Executive's Corporate Leadership Team on 22 August 2018 to further engage other departments in contributing to the local offer. The Corporate Parenting Panel will be updated verbally on the outcome of this meeting.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Not applicable

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not applicable

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not applicable

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not applicable

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not applicable

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APPENDICES:

1. Care Leavers Local Offer