

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

17th November 2020

PERSONAL ADVISER SERVICE UPDATE

Reasons for the Report

1. The report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the Personal Adviser service. The update aims to inform the Committee on the current work that is undertaken to support young people leaving care, including provisions that have been put in place to support young people leaving care during the COVID 19 pandemic as well as future plans for the service in accordance with its terms of reference.

Background

2. The Personal Adviser service is a fundamental service providing advice and guidance for young people aged 16- 25 leaving care. The service is a statutory requirement outlined in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
3. The main function of the service is to participate in the assessment, preparation, implementation and review of Pathway Plans as well as to coordinate the provision of services to young people and take reasonable steps to ensure young people make use of services that could meet their needs.
4. The Personal Adviser service aims to act as an advocate for young people and support their engagement with other advocacy services to ensure their voices are heard and responded to accordingly.

Issues

5. At present the service is now Home Working in line with COVID19 UK government advice. The service has maintained contact with all young people open to our service and provided up to date advice to young people. Contact is via telephone, skype and text. The service has rag rated the young people open to us and those who are presenting in the red/black risk category have been shared with the Operational Manager and individual risk plans in place.
6. The service has adapted working hours with staff managing their time effectively in order to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the young people and the service. Staff are starting work later to maintain contact with young people who have requested this to also support them at times when they may feel more vulnerable and isolated. Some young people who live independently are also being contacted on weekends should they wish to maintain contact with their Personal Advisor We have also introduced a buddy system to support staff who are managed these high risk young people to support staff's emotional wellbeing.

Financial Implications

7. This report is for information only and does not, in itself, lead to any new financial commitments. However, the report references work currently being undertaken to extend the service. To date, no additional costs have arisen as a result of this extension, however, if in the future there are costs associated with this, they will need to be absorbed within the existing Children's Services budget and funded from within existing internal or external resources.

Legal Implications

8. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to note the Personal Adviser service update which outlines statutory responsibilities to children leaving care; and to make any observations or comments.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
11 November 2020