

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18 January 2022

**CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY - PRIORITY 4: EDUCATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:**

SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS

Appendix 1 of the report is exempt from publication as it contains exempt information of the description contained in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reasons for the Report

1. The report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update information relating 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 past 12 month 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.

- 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.

Updated

- At present the service is still predominantly Home Working in line with COVID19 UK government advice. The service is maintaining contact with all young people open to our service and provides up to date advice to young people.
- Since the last report the service has now secured a Participation and Wellbeing coordinator via funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The post was created following an identified need for a post to coordinate partner agencies and services to promote better outcomes for young people leaving care. The aim of this role would promote care leavers with a seamless transition to universal credit and other benefit in readiness for their 18th birthday. Supporting care leavers to overcome barriers and increase engagement with public services and moving them forward to access employment. The role also includes promoting wellbeing of young people by increasing self-confidence, motivation and social skills to reduce isolation.
- The post was created in June 21 with 12 months funding. The target engagement was 70 young people over the course of the 12-month period. To date the figures are:

UC Claims made	25
Into work Referrals	19
CV's created	11
Activity Day Participants	23
Gained employment	4
Gained Employment through Into Work or other means	6

- Engagement with Care Leavers in relation to processing Universal Credits have increased. Young people have a direct contact within the team to complete

CV's and referrals identifying areas whereby young people may need additional support.

9. Wellbeing has been a big focus especially during recent months where young people have found themselves isolated which has impacted upon self-esteem and confidence. During the summer months 4 activities were undertaken and 23 young people participated. Activities included 1 Residential activity that took place in partnership with South Wales Boy and Girls Club and Storey Arms. 2 Young people has since continued to engage with partnering agencies.
10. The Service celebrated Care Leavers Week this year with activities including bowling, Ninja Warrior, Boulders and a tour of the Principality Stadium. During the course of the week 18 young people engaged. Young people attending the activities have since participated in a feedback session directly with the service.
11. There has been additional partnership working with Wates Construction and Porsche promoting opportunities for Care Leavers. These have included DIY taster days and contribution towards a Care Leavers Christmas meal.
12. The presentation provided in Appendix A provides the Committee with information of the role of Well being and Participation Co Ordinator and the support that has been provided to our young people leaving Care

Future Development

13. Extending funding for the Participation and Wellbeing Co-ordinator being explored.
14. Continue to work with young people to promote future developments of the service.

Financial Implications

15. This report sets out that funding for twelve months has been secured in respect to a Participation and Wellbeing Coordinator. Where grant funding has been secured, consideration of any terms and conditions accompanying it should be

reviewed for adherence including any restrictions or time limits on spending. The report references work currently being undertaken to extend the service and that currently neither additional spend has been incurred nor committed to date. However, if additional costs are identified because of any new initiatives, then the costs will need to be identified from either existing budget allocation or external funding sources prior to implementation.

Legal Implications

16. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

17. The Committee is recommended to note the Personal Adviser service update and to make any observations or comments improvements that could be made to the service.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS' SERVICES

20th December 2021

Appendix A – (Confidential) Wellbeing Participation Coordinator Presentation