

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2 October 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

PERSONAL ADVISOR SERVICE UPDATE

Reasons for the report

1. This report provides an update to the committee regarding the Personal Advisor Service and support provided to care experienced young people as provided at **Appendix A**.
2. The report aims to inform the Committee on the current work that is being undertaken to support young people leaving care, to present information on the service over the past 12 months as well as future developments.

Background

3. The Personal Advisor service is a fundamental service providing support, advice and guidance for young people aged between 16- 25. It is a statutory requirement outlined in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

Issues

4. The function of the service is to support care leavers with all aspects of the transition from care towards independence.
5. The Personal Advisor supports the young person in undertaking and reviewing their Pathway Plans and ensuring the plan meets its purpose and achieve the aims and objectives for individuals
6. The Personal Advisor has a duty to co-ordinate the provision of services to ensure that the young person's needs are being adequately met; care experienced young people should expect the same level of care and support that others would expect from a reasonable parent.
7. The service has recently moved into Adults, Housing and Communities under the management of the Advice Service. The alignment of the service helps to provide a holistic and cohesive approach to address the needs of young people with more of a 'wrap around' of services.
8. The Basic Income Pilot is also being undertaken with 98 young people across the service. The entry to the pilot has now ended but it will continue to progress until

2025. The service is working closely with the Money Advice Team in ensuring that all the young people have met the advice worker to discuss their individual circumstances to be able to make informed choices on entering the pilot.

9. Wellbeing and mental health have been a reoccurring theme since coming through the pandemic and the Personal Advisor Service has focused on providing ways to improve young people's self esteem and confidence.
10. A varied summer activity programme has been successfully delivered to 14 young people, as well as providing cookery programmes and celebrating care leavers week.
11. There has been a noted increase in the number of young people accessing further education and university. A workstream is being developed with the Personal Advisor Service and several universities to ensure care experienced have access to the additional services offered.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the update as outlined in **Appendix A** and to make any observations or comments.
14. To consider how the Personal Advisor Service is meeting the needs of our Children Looked After and how it is reported to the Committee going forward.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
11 September 2023

Appendix A – Personal Advisor Service Update Report