

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: REDUCING NUMBER 'NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING' (NEET): REFRESHED STRATEGY**

*To:* **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **25 April 2018**

*From:* **Fiona Mackirdy  
Head of Countywide and Looked After Children's Services**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Purpose:* **To provide the Committee with an update on progress towards reducing the number of young people Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET)**

*Recommendation:* **The Committee is asked to note the report.**

<b><i>Officer contact:</i></b>		<b><i>Member contact:</i></b>	
Name:	Mark Cowdell	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Countywide NEET Manager	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	Mark.Cowdell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 507218	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

## **Summary:**

The council wants to make sure that care leavers are able to get as much help as possible to stay in education or get a job.

One way of making sure this happens is by having a written document that says how the Council will help young people so everyone knows what they should do to help.

Staff in the council have met recently to make sure this document is up to date.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The numbers of young people in education, employment and training (EET) is a key positive outcome measure for Looked After young people and care leavers so measurement of those in EET and those not in education, employment and training (NEET) is carefully monitored.
- 1.2 A NEET reduction strategy was developed in 2015 to sit underneath the Corporate Parenting Strategy: Outcome Area 2 – ‘Care Leavers successfully gain employment’.
- 1.3 The strategy has recently been reviewed and is due to be presented to the Children and Families Leadership Team Meeting for sign off in May 2018. This report advises members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee about the process so far.
- 1.4 The strategy describes actions required and planned to help reduce the number of care leavers that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The current NEET figure for Looked After children and care leavers aged 16 to 21 is 38.0% (119 young people). Within this overall performance figure, more specific detail about the reasons for young people’s NEET status is kept and monitored. We do not have figures for the general 16-21 Cambridgeshire cohort available as a direct comparison, but we do capture the 16-18 Cambridgeshire cohort and the current NEET result for this group is 2.63% plus 0.67% of not knowns. This gives a total figure of 3.3% for NEET and Not Known which is the Department for Education key performance indicator for Raising Participation Age.
- 2.2 A monthly tracking meeting is held involving young people’s social workers, personal advisors and NEET reduction manager to look in detail what support is needed for individual young people to assist them to achieve and maintain engagement in EET.
- 2.3 The strategy details four areas of focus:
  - Support for young people prior to finishing Year 11 and planning for their transition into EET
  - Post Year 11 transition support

- Support for young people into employment and in relation to benefits
- Data/Quality Assurance/Workforce Development

2.4 The strategy has an emphasis on cross-directorate working and ensuring good corporate parenting principles in regards to encouraging further education, training and employment opportunities. This includes consideration of wider issues such as accommodation and travel which may act as barriers to engagement in education employment and training.

### **3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **3.1 Resource Implications**

There are no additional resource implications from the strategy

#### **3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

None

#### **3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

NEET performance is a key indicator of care leaver performance and is taken into account by Ofsted in their inspection of services for care leavers.

#### **3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

None

#### **3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

None

#### **3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

N/A.

#### **3.7 Public Health Implications**

None

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>None</b>	