

**CHILDREN IN CARE/CARE LEAVERS NEET REDUCTION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN
2019-20**

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **17 July 2019**

From: **Mark Cowdell
Countywide NEET Manager**

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 and comment on the report.**

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Summary:

The council wants to make sure that children in care and 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.

There is an overall Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) Reduction Strategy for the County which is being finalised and this document is one of the action plans that sits under this strategy.

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

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 1.1 The numbers of young people in education, employment and training (EET) is a key positive outcome measure for children in care 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 It was then decided in 2018 to develop an overall Cambridgeshire NEET Reduction Strategy which encompasses information about all the key performance indicators around Raising Participation Age and NEET reporting. It was also decided that there would be four action plans that sit underneath this strategy to outline the work that would be done. One of these action plans was specifically for Children in Care and Care Leavers
- 1.4 This report is regarding the updated action plan for 2019-20 (draft attached at **Appendix 1**).

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The current NEET figure for care leavers aged 16 to 21 is 38.1% (157 young people). 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 2.8% plus 0.6% of not knowns. This gives a total figure of 3.4% for NEET and Not Known which is

the Department for Education key performance indicator for Raising Participation Age. Within this overall performance figure, more specific detail about the reasons for young people's NEET status is kept and monitored.

2.2 The strategy details six areas of focus:

- Support Pre-16 young people to get offers of learning and make successful transitions into post 16 provision.
- Support post-16 young people to ensure that they sustain placements in post 16 provision or reengage into post 16 provision.
- Ensure the right support is provided to young people with SEND.
- Identify and Develop more provision to meet the needs for post 16 young people
- Support young people to make successful transition to employment and develop links with JCP to ensure claiming suitable benefits
- Improve data performance/Quality Assurance/Workforce Development

2.3 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. **ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

3.1 **A good quality of life for everyone**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 **Thriving places for people to live**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 **The best start for Cambridgeshire's children**

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This action plan is to reduce the number of young people in care and care leavers that are NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- Research has shown that young people being engaged in education, training and employment will improve self esteem, self confidence and reduce other vulnerabilities such as risk of offending.

4. **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

Source Documents	Location
None	.