

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Thursday 12th September at 10.00 am	
Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester	
Update on Care Leavers Offer – Mentoring Provision	
Author – Mark Bone 02nd September 2019	

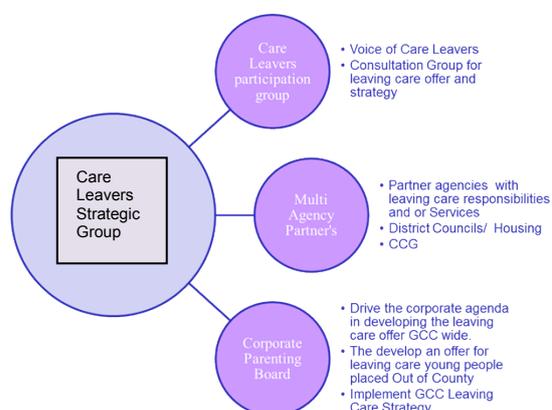
Background

Through the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Government introduced the requirement for local authorities to publish a 'Care Leaver Offer' which outlines the services for care leavers available within the local authority area.

The Act received Royal Assent, becoming law on 27th April 2017. The local authority was required to publish its local offer by December 2018. The local offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers, including information about their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support a local authority chooses to provide. Services relating to the following should be covered:

- Health and well-being
- Relationships
- Education and training
- Employment
- Accommodation
- Participation in society

A care leaver's strategic group was formed to oversee the development and publicise Gloucestershire's local offer for care leavers.



Current Position

Gloucestershire's local offer for care leavers was published and launched at a care leaver's celebration event in October 2018 during care leaver's week. The offer is currently being updated to reflect changes we have made since publishing the initial offer.

The local offer is accessible via GCC website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-young-people-and-families/care-leavers-offer-2018/> and is now available in 5 other languages to reflect our cohort of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). There is also an easy to read care leavers offer summary available. We have also published copies of the local offer to distribute to care leavers and have these accessible in all of our offices.

Work will continue with young people and partner agencies to develop the local offer.

At the previous meeting an update on the Local Offer was given, further information was requested on the progress of developing a Mentoring Scheme.

- A bid was submitted to NHS England to develop a 16-25 Service within this bid funding was being requested for a mentoring Co-ordinator to help support the development of a wider mentoring service. Unfortunately we now know this bid was not successful.
- We have also looked at providers who are already offering mentoring provision to consider what is offered and whether it is a possibility to commission an external service which offers quality and value for money.
- We are currently looking at the development of a Peer Mentoring provision. A small amount of funding has been identified to develop and support this model over the next 18 months in partnership with Care Leavers.
- For future developments we are planning to include a wider plan for a Mentoring Model within the Youth Strategy, where we will outline our aspirations and plans for funding and where we will locate this provision.