

# Care Leavers Strategy Update

Corporate Parenting Board

5 October 2017

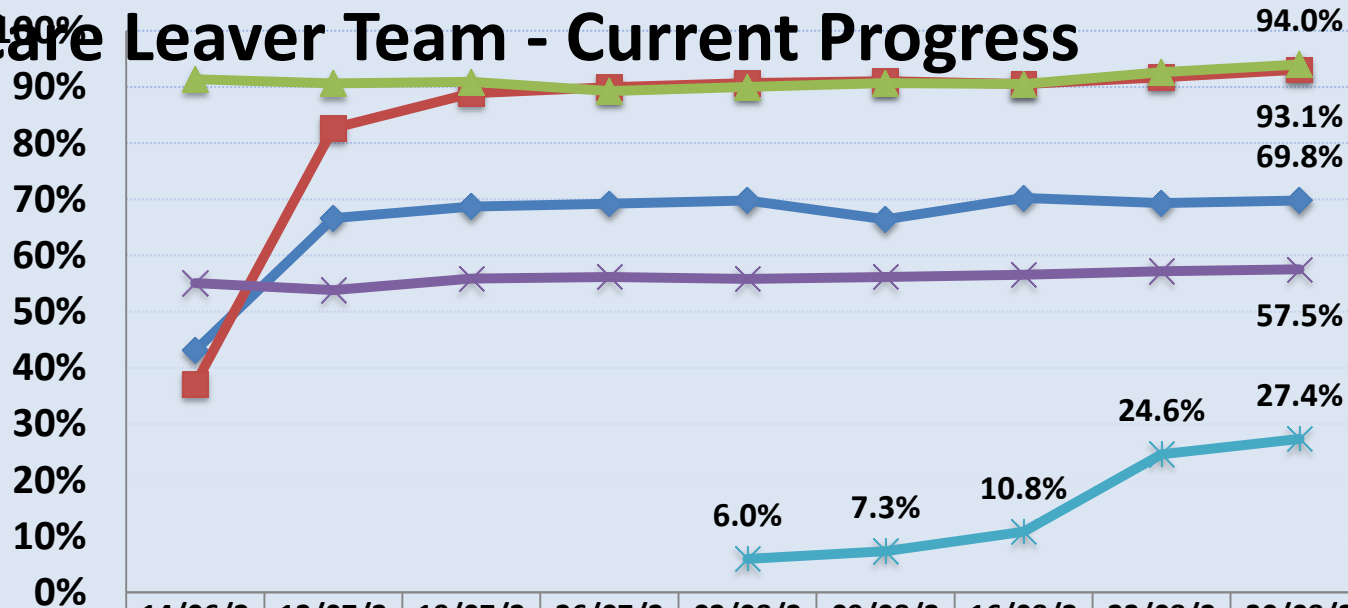
# *Start earlier, stay longer and join up*

- Recruited 6.5 more Personal Advisers and a Practice Lead
- Personal Advisors now working on average with 24 care leavers (most lower)
- Setting Up Home Grant now £2,000 (was £1,500)
- Signed up to the National Care Leaver Charter
- Joined the National Leaving Care Benchmarking forum
- District-level Care Leavers data now regularly being provided to Corporate Parenting Board members

# Progress to date

*(data as at 30 August 2017)*

## Care Leaver Team - Current Progress



	14/06/2017	12/07/2017	19/07/2017	26/07/2017	02/08/2017	09/08/2017	16/08/2017	23/08/2017	30/08/2017
Up-to-date Pathway Plans	43.1%	66.7%	68.7%	69.2%	69.8%	66.4%	70.3%	69.3%	69.8%
Suitable Accommodation	37.1%	82.6%	88.9%	90.0%	90.7%	91.0%	90.5%	91.7%	93.1%
In Touch	91.4%	90.6%	90.9%	89.3%	90.0%	90.7%	90.5%	92.7%	94.0%
EET	55.1%	53.8%	55.9%	56.2%	55.8%	56.1%	56.5%	57.2%	57.5%
Visits					6.0%	7.3%	10.8%	24.6%	27.4%

# Employment, Education and Training

- Young People Not in Education, Employment and Training now 43% (September 2017). Was 48% at the time of the inspection. (England average is 51%)
- 2 Personal Advisors have Education, Employment and Training lead coordinator roles
- Developing links with wider council and partners to create a range of work opportunities (from shadowing to apprenticeships)
- Creating an Education, Employment and Training Offer (catalogue of options) and Pathway (referral route)
- Recruiting to 2 Peer Mentor Traineeships (Care Leavers who will work within the service). Potential to have up to 10 Traineeships
- *The Family Firm* media campaign being launched during Care Leavers Week
- *Building For the Future* event for looked after children and care leavers held on 6 September. Event for care leavers not in Employment, Education or Training. Aim was to have plan for all those young people who attended

# Suitable Accommodation

- 95% of all Care leavers now in suitable accommodation (September 2017)
- Only 2 young people have been in B&B since last inspection
  - 1 young person unexpectedly returned from Pakistan and presented to Birmingham housing as homeless. Notified after the event
  - 1 young person was moved in an emergency by a housing provider without our knowledge
- Working with District Councils and Housing Providers to improve communication and to prevent use of B&B. Draft Joint Housing Protocol close to being finalised
- Recommissioning Safe Base and Crash Pad emergency accommodation to extend to care leavers over 18
- First Training Flat going live in Redditch. Joint Redditch Borough Council / Care Leaver Service venture
- More young people are now staying in their placements post 18. (54)
  - 35 young people in Staying Put arrangements (21 at time of Ofsted)
  - 12 in Independent Living accommodation
  - 7 at University

# Keeping in Touch

- In touch with 95% of our care leavers (September 2017). Was 86% at the time of inspection. England average is 92%
  - Introduced new Statutory Visit recording process
  - 36% of visits so far recorded in time. Will increase as recording change embeds
- Drop-In Centre started at Axis Youth Hub in Kidderminster on 14 August. Further drop-ins planned for Redditch, Worcester and Evesham
- Using social media more to keep in touch
  - Texting group set up to enable Personal Advisers to contact their Care Leavers
  - Exploring use of secure Facebook page and MoMo

# Care Leaver's Voice

- Want to ensure the voice of care leavers is heard and they influence key decisions and changes to the service
- Care Leavers made presentations to managers meetings in May and July
- Care Leavers attending Care Leavers team meetings
- Had a summer Care Leavers BBQ and *Building For the Future* Events at County Hall
- Peer Mentors will be part of the Care Leavers Service
- Care Leavers Week is 23 to 27 October. Will include
  - Care Leavers Celebration Prom
  - Care Leavers Survey

# Challenges

- Children and Social Work Act 2017 extended responsibility for all Care Leavers up to the age of 25.
- No guidance yet from the Department for Education
- Means a further 240 plus young people over 21 may need a service
  - Were already in touch with 41 young people over 21. They want support to continue
  - Have written to all other care leavers 21 plus who are not currently in touch with the service. So far had 61 replies (out of 249 letters sent out), a response rate of 24.5%.
  - 37 (61%) of the respondents want a service
  - 17 (28) of the respondents are no longer living at the last known address we have for them. More work will be done to locate them
- The Directorate is considering the resource implications of this additional demand