

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
30 NOVEMBER 2017**

**JOINT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING PROTOCOL FOR
CARE LEAVERS**

Recommendation

- 1. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to**
 - a) Endorse the protocol, and**
 - b) Support key aims of the protocol:**
 - To develop jointly commissioned training flats**
 - To jointly commission emergency temporary accommodation for care leavers aged over 18 to as a direct alternative to the use of B&B**
 - To agree a robust 'Prevention of Eviction' process for Care Leavers, applied across Strategic Housing, Housing Providers and Children, Families and Communities**

Background

2. This protocol extensively updates the original Worcestershire Joint Protocol for Care Leavers initially written in 2013, which was an addendum to the Worcestershire Joint Protocol for Homeless Young People. The protocol is now an independent document.
3. This revision was undertaken jointly by the Local Housing Authorities and representatives from Childrens, Families and Communities.
4. The protocol is a key part of the Worcestershire's Care Leaver Strategy 2017-2019. It clarifies the legal framework within which Childrens, Families and Communities and the Local Housing Authorities operate, confirms our collective corporate parenting responsibilities towards care leavers and translates those duties into practice.

Purpose of the Joint Protocol

5. In Worcestershire, it is recognised that responsibility for care leavers is shared across agencies and that as corporate parents we all are responsible for preparing young people for the transition to independence and leaving care.
6. The Joint Protocol is an agreement between the Local Housing Authorities (and those providing services on their behalf) and Childrens, Families and Communities which:

- Affirms our corporate parenting approach to care leavers and provides a shared commitment to ensure our young people achieve the best outcomes possible;
- Establishes and defines the roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies towards care leavers
- Ensures there is effective partnership working for planning and supporting young people's progression from looked after accommodation to independence, as well as the mechanisms for review and contingency
- Sets out our commitment to jointly develop services for care leavers;

Benefits

7. The benefits of having a joint protocol are:

- A clearer understanding of roles and responsibilities for officers of the Childrens, Families and Communities and the Local Housing Authorities;
- Creates a partnership approach to ensuring young people's needs are assessed, understood, and they are supported to access accommodation appropriate to their needs; reducing the risk of homelessness via preparation, planning and supporting sustainable transitions towards independence;
- Aims to end the use of inappropriate accommodation, with the explicit aim of ending the use of bed and breakfast type accommodation;
- Aims to make the most efficient and effective use of resources and time;
- Ensures data is collected and analysed to inform future strategy and commissioning activities

Outcomes

8. The outcomes for young people are:

- Care leavers will be aware of their accommodation options (as to set out in our Local Offer) and be actively involved in their plan.
- Care leavers will have better planned transitions to independence supported by accurate and up-to-date Pathway Plans which clearly reflect their views and information from the professionals supporting them.
- On-going support to ensure accommodation is matched to need and sustained with a personalised support package;

- Assertive (joined up) prevention of accommodation breakdown and planned move on where required
- Reduced risk of homelessness and rough sleeping;
- Access to safe, secure and appropriate emergency accommodation, if accommodation arrangements do break down.

Next Steps

- Develop more jointly commissioned services (such as training flats)
- Jointly commission emergency temporary accommodation for care leavers aged over 18 to as a direct alternative to the use of B&B
- Develop and agree a robust 'Prevention of Eviction' process for Care Leavers, applied across Strategic Housing, Housing Providers and Children, Families and Communities

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Name: Rhys Davies

Job Title: Practice Lead

Tel: 07884205521

Email: Rdavies4@worcestershire.gov.uk

Supporting Information

- Joint Social Care and Housing Protocol for Care Leavers

Background Papers

- None