

Corporate Parenting Board

Thursday, 7 February 2019, 2.00 pm, County Hall, Worcester

Membership: Mr A C Roberts (Chairman), Mr R C Adams, Ms P A Hill,
Mrs L C Hodgson, Dr C Hotham, Mr M Johnson, Mrs F M Oborski,
Mrs J A Potter, Cllr Gareth Prosser, Cllr Margaret Sherrey,
Cllr Juliet Smith and Cllr David Watkins

Agenda

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4	Edge of Care To receive a presentation from Tina Russell	7 - 24

Agenda produced and published by Simon Mallinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Kate Griffiths, Committee Officer, on 01905 846630, KGriffiths@worcestershire.gov.uk

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 30 January 2019

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Department
for Work &
Pensions

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Universal Credit Full Service

Support For Care Leavers



Opening up work_

Support For Care Leavers

The Government is committed to improving outcomes for care leavers and has introduced a number of measures to encourage them to engage in education and employment.

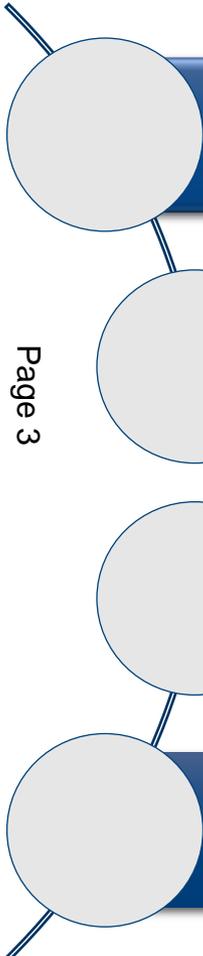
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Universal Credit supports care leavers by ensuring they have a claim for Universal Credit immediately on day one of leaving care.

This will ensure support is in place when leaving care.

Support For Care Leavers

The support a care leaver can get whilst on Universal Credit includes -



advance claims to Universal Credit, enabling a smoother transition when a claimant turns 18

support from day one, including access to Alternative Payment Arrangements and Personal Budgeting Support

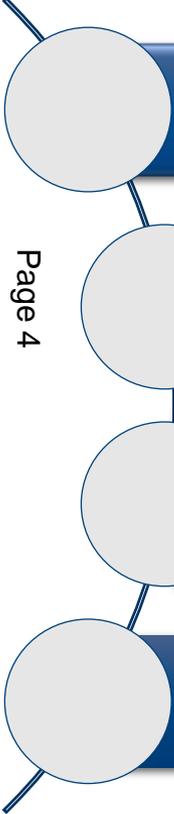
undertaking full-time non-advanced education whilst on Universal Credit

access to hardship payments from day one of a sanction

Support For Care Leavers

Care leavers can make an advanced claim to Universal Credit up to 28 days before their 18th birthday.

This includes making a pre-claim appointment to:



confirm the young persons identification

confirm bank account details

confirm the claimant is a care leaver using written evidence on headed paper or email, or official paper work relating to being in care

book evidence and Claimant Commitment interview as close to 18th birthday as possible.

Universal Credit full service care leaver journey

At 17 years and 11 months, prior to leaving care.

Journey starts up to 28 days before the YP's 18th birthday

From up to 28 days before the care leaver's 18th birthday the support worker and care leaver discuss and prepare for the YP in making their claim for UC on the full UC service.

Contact local Care Leaver liaison officer at the Jobcentre to **book the first of two interviews** to help with the preparation of the YP's claim.

Has YP got supporting evidence to make a claim for UC

ID – Passport, or Driving Licence or other documentation

Transactional Bank Account details

Support worker works with YP to obtain primary evidence of ID, ensures there is a transactional bank account, and has details of the housing

Details of housing – tenancy agreement

Details of the YP's full circumstances of claim will be held on the Service for 28 days without submitting the claim.

DO NOT SUBMIT THE CLAIM

Support worker supports YP with UC claim on line to register and verify their UC account, complete registration, and complete all circumstances field.



Attend interview at the Jobcentre with the YP to discuss the advantages of support that is available together with the support worker.

PBS

Advance payments

Alternative Payment Arrangement

Forms are completed and ID is checked to ensure it will be sufficient ready for the ID interview

Once completed – await YP's 18th birthday



Universal Credit full service care leaver journey On the 18th birthday.

On the day of their 18th birthday, with help of the LA LCT, YP will access online account and submits claim. The claim will start on the day it is submitted.



Review everything entered, confirm it is correct and submit.



Accept high level responsibilities or claimant commitment before attending the office.



Make the declaration and the option to verify identify via gov.uk



A claimant "to do" is generated called 'book your interview.' The LA LCT should call and book this appointment directly with the jobcentre CL SPOC.

Interview, ideally, to be attended by support worker together with the YP.

Make arrangements to attend the interview with the YP.

Interview should take place within 7 days



Submit application for advance payment..



Submit application for alternative payment arrangement.



If needed referral made for Personal Budget Support and Assisted Digital



Interview attended and YP is advised of how often UC is paid. First payment of UC will be due to the YP

First Payment of Universal Credit will be received by the YP five weeks after the date that the claim is submitted,



Working Together

Improving the lives of children and young people

in Worcestershire

Corporate Parenting Board: Edge of Care Update

07 February 2019
Tina Russell

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Supporting...

Children and Families



Our Vision and Social Work Approach

- We want children to be Happy Healthy and Safe.
- We value family life and will support and empower parents to care for their own children well.
- **We will keep children at the heart of everything we do**
- We will act in a professional and timely way on our duty to protect children from harm when necessary.

- *The Edge of Care development is part of the wider Children Social Work services in developing and improving the ways in which we can best meet our statutory duties and responsibilities to achieve effective long term outcomes for children.*
- *The edge of care service is inter-related with our work on Placement Sufficiency and Permanency planning for children in care.*

What is Edge of Care?

- Edge of Care is the term used to describe where a child has been identified as a **child in need** of support or protection and who, **without immediate and intensive specialist services**, would **likely** be a child in need of local authority **care**.

The Research reflects our experience – we need to do something

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What research tells us.....

- Research shows that children who enter care as adolescents are less likely to settle in their care placements and thus experience greater placement breakdown, instability and an increased likelihood to be placed in residential care
- Residential care can often be seen as a last resort and an option for more challenging young people. (Sinclair et al, 2007; Dixon et al 2006; Biehal, 2008)
- Existing research on adolescent entrants transitioning to independence from care shows that there is a higher tendency to leave care earlier and to do so with greater difficulties and poorer outcomes than those who enter care as younger children and who find stability.
- Research on care leavers has shown that those who entered care aged 14 and above fared worse than younger entrants in terms of educational outcomes and preparation for independent living.
- They were also more likely to experience poor outcomes in post care housing stability and participation in post-16 education, employment and training (Dixon et al 2006; Stein, 2012).
- Research and practice evidence point to links between care and custody for adolescents, A review completed by the Prison Reform Trust in 2016, reported looked-after children aged between 10 and 17 are five times more likely to be convicted, or subject to a final warning or reprimand, than other children.(Action for Children research Supporting Adolescents on the Edge of Care 2015)

What are we doing?

- Survey's to Public, Young People and Professionals to understand from them what works.
- Reviewing other successfully evaluated models
- Key issues of learning what works from Ofsted research

Edge of Care – Why do it in Worcestershire ?

- Our vision to support family care where it is safe to do so
- 45% of our current children became looked after in 2015 or before. Whilst this is a reduction from 59% as was at April 17 reflecting proactive work on drifting care plans it still shows a high number of children who have long term plans in our care
- Increasing trend in number of children in care, nationally and in Worcestershire

Placements and Outcomes

- 53% of our looked after children are between the ages of 11-15yrs.
- This is the age group most likely to need residential care – either at the point of entry or through foster placement breakdown.
- They are the least likely to achieve permanency outside of local authority care.
- Young people often return to parental care after a period in care

Ofsted Research: Edging away from Care – how services successfully prevent young people entering care

- General successes: young people supported to remain living at home or in the community, families felt that entering care would have resulted in worse outcomes
- Other outcomes identified:
 - improved behavior including anger control, offending or anti-social behavior
 - improved school attendance and attainment
 - improved family and peer relationships
 - raised confidence and self-esteem
 - increased aspirations and employability
 - improved physical living conditions
 - improved mental and physical health
 - a lessening of risk to the young person's safety and well-being.

No Wrong Door – North Yorkshire

- New way of providing support to young people who are within /on the edge of the care system
- Replaces traditional council-run young peoples' homes with hubs which combine residential care with fostering.
- Each hub has a dedicated team which includes:
 - A life coach who is a clinical psychologist
 - A speech therapist
 - Two community foster families
 - Community supported lodging places for 16 and 17-year-olds, again staffed by people who are specially trained
- Every young person in the programmed has one key worker supported by a single team who stick with the young person through thick and thin to access the right services at the right time and in the right place to meet their needs – strong relationships developed
- **Results:** children more likely to leave care and 86% remained out of care

Essex Approach

- Cultural change in approach – move away from children’s homes to more support within families
- Investment in prevention using an evidenced-based approach to family work known as ‘Brief Intervention’
- Combines solution focused methodology and a commitment to a strength-based engagement with families
- Aim is to ‘get alongside’ young people and families where there are complex problems to identify ‘workable’ solutions and help improve the relationships they share with each other
- Principle is that of enabling Social Workers to develop skills in evidenced based work with teenagers and their families
- **Results:** 7% decrease in the number of children entering care (mostly in the age 10-15 range), a 6% increase in the number of children leaving care with a further 3% of those leaving care because of Special Guardianship Orders (SGO).

Proposed Edge of Care Offer

- Our target group for Edge of Care is 11-17years preventing care where is it safe and in the child's best interests.
- Strength based intervention based on building relationships, addressing emotional health and resilience in young people and families
- Outreach to young people and families in their home/community - response to crisis
- Therapeutic input to bring about lasting change
- Develop short breaks provided by extended family not a “step into care”
- Supporting permanency planning out of care SGO/Rehabilitation to parental care

What will it look like in Worcestershire?

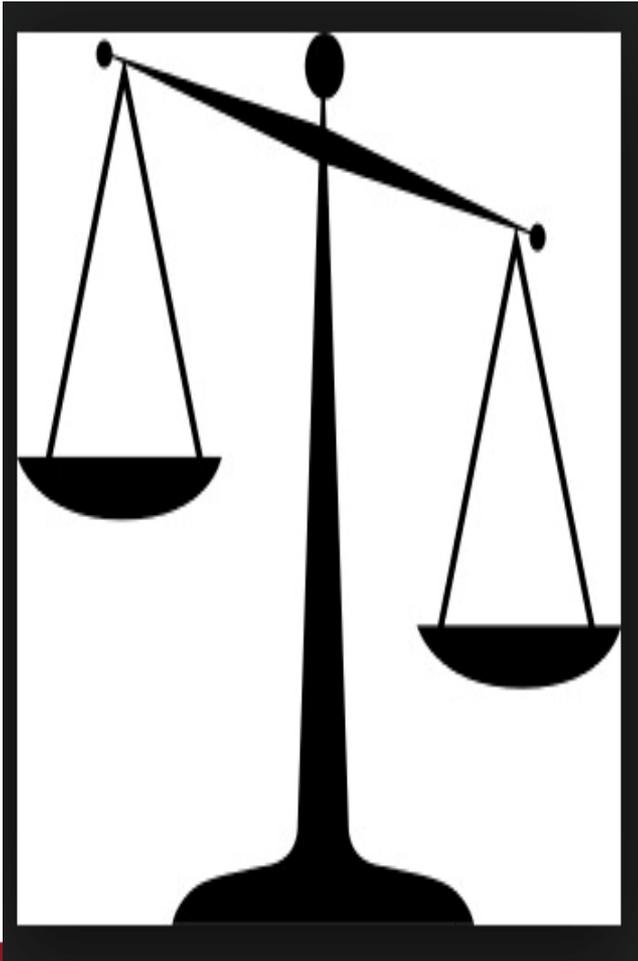
- Capacity to build relationships
- Skills to effect change
- Evidenced based programmes of intervention
- Outreach Worker Posts – practical programme of support
- Specialist Worker Posts for Adults
- Specialist worker posts for Children
- Co-working with SW for children in plans
- Supporting Reunification of children in care

System thinking, planning and delivery

- Sufficiency strategy – local placements meeting the needs of children who need care
- Good quality and timely Care Proceedings
- Permanency planning for children in care and support to permanency carers – SGO/Adoption
- CAMHS/Emotional well being/Sexually Harmful behaviours services – CCG and Public Health
- Targeted Early Help and Troubled Families
- “Get Safe” multi agency development of support to young people at risk of CSE/Missing/Trafficking/County Lines

Balancing the issues to make the right service decisions and plans

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- Young People in our care now – Corporate Parent
- Good practice and compliance with statutory responsibilities
- Changing culture to a strength based model with families
- Managing demand through prevention services
- Managing risk safely in the interests of children
- Financial challenges of WCC

Next steps

- Staff consultation on closure of Children's Homes ends February and home closure target date 31.3.19. Finance re-directed
- Outreach worker interviews as part of the CH closure for the right staff
- Evaluation of the survey
- Appointment of Edge of Care Group Manager to lead development of the service
- Adverts/Interview April /May 2019
- Service live June 19 – Sept 2019

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