

Practice Standards for Care Experienced People

- All cared for children will be transferred to the care experienced people's team on their 18th birthday.
- Every care leaver will be allocated a Personal Advisor on or within 4 weeks of their 16th birthday.
- The Personal Advisor will work alongside the social worker and build a relationship with the young person which supports a smooth transition.

Health Passports

- All Care leavers will receive a copy of their health passport prior to their 18th birthday. This is provided by the cared for children's nurse and a copy put on the young person's file on ICS

Arrangements for Education/Employment.

- Each care experienced person will be allocated a dedicated Education and Employability Practitioner.
- An EET panel will be held bi-monthly to support care leavers at risk of becoming NEET (not in education or employment) and for long term NEET who are in need of more support. Records of these meetings are recorded on ICS case notes and within pathway plans. Actions are reviewed to monitor progress and engagement.
- Financial support will be provided for all care leavers who enter into higher education and for care leavers aged 19 and over who are in further education. Please see local offer for further details.

Independence Skills.

- Personal Advisors will work with young people to assess and develop their independence skills. This will be reflected in their Pathway Plan
- Young people moving into their first home will receive intensive support until they are settled and feel safe. This may mean increased visits.

Statutory Visit – ‘Keeping in touch’.

- The statutory timescales for visiting a care experienced people is once every 60 days. This is the minimum requirement and must be adhered to, however it is fully expected that more frequent visiting would be completed if the young person needs /requests this.
- Visits will be led by the young person however focus should be given by the personal advisor in respect of their emotional wellbeing, physical health, housing, finances and employment/education.
- The ‘keeping in touch’ visit will then be written up onto ICS with 7 days of the visit.
- Any safeguarding concerns relating to the visit need to be escalated to the team manager immediately after the visit.

Pathway Planning.

- Every care experienced person will have a pathway plan that is updated at least every 6 months.
- The pathway plan will be updated:
 - if a care leaver is at risk of losing their liberty, accommodation
 - their child is subject to safeguarding processes
 - 20 days before release from custody
 - within 20 days of a move to unregulated accommodation
 - if it is requested by the young person.
- Pathway plans are quality assured and authorised by the Care Experienced People’s team manager and will include multi agencies if this is agreed by the young person. The Pathway plan will be reviewed to make sure that plans continue to meet the needs of the young person and are being progressed in a timely manner, while taking into consideration the wishes and feeling of the young person
- If the young person is able to understand and participate, they will be encouraged and assisted to participate in their Pathway Plan Review meeting. If they are unwilling or unable to attend their Pathway Plan Review Meeting,

their wishes and feelings will be presented and taken into consideration at the review.

- The allocated Personal Advisor will contact relevant agencies (housing, education, employment, health professionals) for an update prior to review meeting and update if they are not able to attend.
- The Pathway Plan / Review meeting will be written up within 5 working days and uploaded onto ICS.
- A copy of the Pathway Plan / Review meeting will be given to the young person in a folder within 10 working days and a case note added to ICS.

Staying Put

- All young people in foster care will have a discussion about a staying put arrangement with their carer up until the age of 21.
- If this is agreed a staying put agreements will be reviewed annually in a meeting with the personal advisor, young person, supervising social worker and carer.
- The agreement will then be typed up by the personal advisor within 5 working days and a copy given to the carer and young person within 10 working days.

Housing

- All care experienced people will be given priority housing in Knowsley.
- Care experienced people who require their own accommodation will be presented at housing panel between 3 and 6 months before they leave care
- Care experienced people will be supported with housing applications and welfare benefits as appropriate.
- Care experienced people will be exempt from paying council tax.
- Care experienced people will be offered additional support from housing support officers.

Setting up home allowance

- All relevant and former relevant care leavers will be given a setting up home allowance of £3000.
- All young people setting up their first home will be given a starter pack up to the value of £50.

- Care experienced people will be given festival money and birthdays allowance up to the age of 21.

Activities

- All Care experienced people will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Care leaver's forum.
- Seasonal events will also be arranged for care experienced people such as Easter and Christmas celebrations.

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