

Report for: CPAC 2nd July 2018

Item number:

Title: Report on the new Government funding for previously looked-after children and care leavers apprenticeship bursary

Report

Authorised by:



Ann Graham, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer:

Fiona Smith, Virtual School Head
020 8489 3163
Fiona.smith@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:**

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 has amended the Children Act 1989 to introduce a new duty on local authorities to promote the education of certain previously looked-after children. This duty will come into force on 1 September 2018. Funding will be provided by the DfE to support the implementation of these new duties. This report will outline who this group includes and what the duties will cover.
- 1.2 On 9 April 2018 the DfE announced changes to the apprenticeship funding policy and this included a change to the funding for care leavers who start apprenticeships. This report will explain these changes and how these will be implemented.

2. Background Information on the new duty towards previously looked-after children

- 2.1 The amendments to the Children Act 1989 introducing a new duty to promote the education of previously looked-after children requires local authorities to appoint an officer to make sure the duty is properly discharged. The guidance that has been produced to set out the framework for this, *Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after*

children, February 2018, available on the Gov.uk website, refers to this officer as the Virtual School Head (VSH) in the authority.

2.2 Previously looked-after children are those who:

- are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales (as defined by the Children Act 1989 or Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014) because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order; and
- were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales. 'State care' is care provided by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other organisation whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

2.3 For previously looked-after children, the VSH will be a source of advice and information to help their parents to advocate for them as effectively as possible. VSHs are not acting as the corporate parent in these circumstances, but are there to promote the educational achievement of these children through the provision of advice and information to relevant parties, including any person that has parental responsibility for that child, or who is involved in delivering or promoting education services for that child. Each local authority VSH will have responsibility for eligible children attending schools and education provision in their own authority (unlike arrangements for looked-after children).

2.4 To support the implementation of virtual school heads' new role, the DfE is providing additional funding to local authorities until 2020. In Haringey, the amount allocated is £30,000.

2.5 The implementation will be dependent on a detailed needs analysis of the population of eligible previously looked-after children attending schools in Haringey. A paper on this will be presented to the DMT in July.

3. Background Information on the apprenticeship bursary for care leavers

3.1 To help care leavers overcome the extra barriers they often experience, the DfE is introducing a £1,000 bursary payment for 16-24 year olds starting an apprenticeship. This will come into effect on 1 August 2018. Young people starting an apprenticeship after this date will be given a one-off payment via their provider. More details can be found in the policy; *Apprenticeship funding in England from August 2018* available on the Gov.uk website.

3.2 There are currently 15 care leavers doing apprenticeships, so the additional funding would not be given to them, but it is likely to serve as an extra incentive to young people considering an apprenticeship in the future.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that a detailed needs analysis of the educational needs of previously looked-after children eligible for support be undertaken before deciding what services to offer and how.
- 4.2 It is recommended that a multi-agency stakeholder group meet to consider the implications of the care-leavers apprenticeship bursary, and how this will be advertised.

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

Both these initiatives support P1 priorities: Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education; giving young people access to excellent employment and higher education opportunities.