



Haringey Council

Report for:		Item Number:	
Title:	Care Leavers Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities including those who have no legal status in the UK, and opportunities for those captured as NEET		
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Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		

1. Introduction

Haringey Council has a duty to ensure that the children and young people in its care are successful in education and that they are supported to make progress and equipped with the life tools to make good choices to continue through education and into employment.

2. How we support young people to stay in education and training

We aim to support young people to remain in their current education and college courses. Each young person in care has a Personal Education Plan that accompanies them during their journey through care. As an additional monitoring system there are plans to review the PEP's ongoing at the transition panel where a representative of the Virtual School is present and can provide additional advice and guidance to the current and future plans in place and ensure all efforts are being made to sustain current educational/training provision.

We expect that young people will have had careers guidance at school and completed PEP's outlining aspirations and education progress throughout their time in care. We want young people to know that we have high aspirations for their future.



Haringey Council
3. University

We continue to have marked success with higher than average numbers of care leavers attending university. This year 42 of our current 300 care leavers are at university.

To support our care leavers to aspire to university we work closely with ***Into University*** who have provided support workshops for our care leavers on site at the Young Adults Service office.

We also introduced in 2011 a dedicated email address to keep in touch with our care leavers at university so that we can send them regular updates on funding opportunities and other important opportunities.,

4. Annual care leavers achievement event

This is an annual event to celebrate the achievements of children & young people in care and leaving care. For the last two years we decided to combine the event with highlighting career & training opportunities for the young people, this has proved to be a successful networking event for all, with a cross section of providers being represented, for example: Princes Trust, KIS, First Rung, CHENEL, HALs and CSV.

5. How we support young people to engage in education and find employment.

We recognise that young people who are about to leave care or have left care have many challenges to face including accessing housing, finances, family contact , education and the prospect of living independently for the first time.. The role of the social worker and Personal Advisors is essential in providing support, advice and encouragement to keep the young people in mind and support them in their decision making. Young people need positive and supportive relationships which encourage aspirations, offer consistency and appropriate pathways. The challenges of limited employment opportunities and financial concerns directly impacts on some young people in maintaining a focus on education and employment.

With regard to our current performance data which monitors care leavers at the 19th birthday in ETE, we are below target. 64% of Haringey care leavers were in ETE in 2011/12, and 60% (36 out of 60) were in ETE this year. This is in line with our statistical neighbours and at a similar level to that reported in 2011/12. and it is disappointing that we were short of target.

Overall however, as a service for those aged 18-25, we currently are reporting 30% of our total number of cases are NEET, with 0.3% who are No Recourse to Public Funds (10/300 cases), and 0.1% who are All Rights Exhausted (5/300 cases). Within this cohort of young people we have a number who are currently at HMP establishments on short custodial sentences, often with no opportunities for education, or training until their release. In addition some are young mothers who have recently given birth or been involved in Child protection proceedings and are taking a break from ETE, others have significant medical disorders which prevents them from accessing ETE currently.. Tare, therefore, a number



Haringey Council

of reasons that prevent access to ETE for periods of time that do need to be acknowledged and taken into consideration.

Within this cohort however we also have those who are actively seeking work, unofficially working, and those with firm plans to re-engage in education or who are volunteering but as this is not formal ETE they would therefore still be considered at this stage as NEET.

6. Bespoke projects for Haringey Care Leavers.

6.1 Willkommen

In recognition that work experience is crucial for young people we have entered into partnership with NCAS and Catch 22 on the Willkommen project. This initiative provides 6 Haringey care leavers over 2013/14 the opportunity to enter into 4 weeks work experience with Marriott hotels, which may well provide a springboard for careers in the hotel industry. A portion of the young people's time is spent based at the Grosvenor Marriott in London, and second two weeks in Germany. The first cohort of 3 have recently completed their work experience and it is likely one candidate will be offered a permanent position with the Marriott, with the other two having gained valuable work experience and a reference.

6.2 The Eighteen Project

The Eighteen project with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation has given us fantastic opportunities, engaging some our most hard to reach older children in care and care leavers in interesting, enriching and confidence building activities to engender their interest in further education and employment.

The project currently has 40 young people aged 15-20 being mentored by coaches from the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. The project supports young people to remain in education and also for those out of education to engage and achieve some success.

The two year project started in June 2011 with funding from the GLA Sports Participation fund and the four local authorities of Haringey, Barnet, Enfield and Waltham Forest. The project is currently under review and sourcing new funding opportunities.

6.3 Goals2Work

We are entering a further partnership with NCAS and Catch 22 on a project called Goals2Work funded by Comic Relief. This will mean a fantastic opportunity for 60 care leavers in Haringey, Essex and Islington to participate in football whilst developing their employability and life skills.

7. Mainstream opportunities which Haringey care leavers are supported to engage in.



7.1 Go4it Project

In 2012 we began work with the Go4it Project which aims to support young people between the ages of 16 – 19 into EET (education, employment and training) and they are currently offering drop in sessions at the YAS office. Every young person referred gets an individualised support plan and the advisors are able to work intensively with a small caseload of harder to engage young people.

7.2 Employment/ From Care2 Work

Achieving a range of employment opportunities for care leavers is challenging, especially in the current job market. We have therefore been working closely with Care2Work which is run by the National Care Advisory Service (NCAS) and receive fortnightly updates from Care2Work informing the service of employment, apprenticeship and work experience for care leavers.

7.3 Youth Community and Participation

The Children in Care Service also has strong links with the YC&P, who are able to support care leavers in a variety of ways including:

The Junction

Both YP&C and YAS service have direct links to the Junction and can refer care leavers from the age of 16 to 19 or up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities. Plans are being put into place for targeted workshops for young people across the service who have an identified need, such as careers advice, or are currently NEET.

The Youth Contract

The Youth Contract programme provides support for disengaged young people 16 - 17 years old, for the next three years, helping them to move into education, training or employment with training.

Providers are given complete freedom to design and tailor a programme of support to help young people move into full-time education, an apprenticeship or a job with training. This opportunity is available for care leavers who are also not based in Haringey but are a 'Haringey' child. They are able to deliver bespoke programmes for individual young people based on their assessed need and provide if required intensive pre-engagement to the program which we have found critical for our young people who are sustained NEETS, who have entrenched barriers to engagement.

7.4 Jobs for Haringey



Haringey Council

A further source of support has been in building relationships with Jobs for Haringey. We receive weekly updates on employment opportunities in the borough for our clients and are working closely with one of their careers and employment advisors who has a special interest in supporting our care leavers. We hope to build on this relationship in future months with a drop-in being offered to clients on site at the YAS office.

We also definitely need more support from local businesses in Haringey to provide work experience, apprenticeships and longer term employment. We need increased commitment to this also across the Council, with departments providing short term work experience, internships and maybe employment opportunities too.

7.6 Other providers we link with

Princes Trust,
KIS,
First Rung,
CHENEL,
HALs
Who Cares Trust

7.8 Skills for London

Skills for London is the biggest jobs and careers event of the year with over 30,000 visitors and 120 exhibitors taking part. This year the service accompanied a group of care leavers to the event to support networking opportunities and help them to gain a sense of what is available to them and encourage high aspirations. The event is being repeated in November 2013 and we will build on the success of last year's event.

8. Future aspirations

We currently do not have an effective simplified manner from FW-i in which to monitor ETE for each young person known to the Children In Care Service, we are therefore looking using a manual monitoring spreadsheet. This enables us to know the position of each young person (18+) and match them to opportunities coming through the system.

A further critical concern for the service is to regularise where possible asylum seekers status so they can access education. More awareness raising with social workers and IROs is required, and understanding of educational rights of such young people whose status remains in limbo is planned.

Young People turning nineteen with no final decision on their asylum claims are struggling to access further and higher education. There are also some difficulties enrolling on courses if no suitable identification is in place which can sometimes be held at the HO, or due to the legislation surrounding those with unsettled status means they are not eligible to access ETE. In such instances where young people have become All Rights Exhausted or are No Recourse to Public Funds, we still work closely with our community providers who offer basic skills courses and free ESoL courses up to level 3, and volunteering opportunities. We endeavour to ensure that our unaccompanied minor children and young



Haringey Council

people are returning with skills and work experience that they can put to good use in existing industries or by creating their own job opportunities.

We also believe the way forward would be to train up some of our older settled ex care leavers who have refugee status as mentors to work alongside our most vulnerable separated children and young people.