Education, Employment & Training

Outcome Lead: Matthew Cooke/Wendy Wright

Priority 1

Priority actions:	Targets and timescales	Owner	Progress
We will extend the role of the Virtual School to ensure there is a post 16 and post 18 education and training offer to all care leavers	Develop tailored offer with University of Suffolk and other local providers by September 2021 Ensure access to ESOL post 19 for UASC	Matthew Cooke	 There are dedicated Post-16 and Post-18 lead roles integrated into the Virtual School service that support the education and training offer for Care Leavers. The Post 16 lead and secondary lead work jointly on preemptive work for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils to ensure their post 16 plans are viable and ambitious. The Post 16 lead and SEND lead work on all young people with Education Health and Care Plans to ensure they will be fit for purpose as the young person reaches age 16. The Post 18 lead has set up EET panels to routinely review YP who are NEET and on the periphery of NEET. The next step is to move a worker who leads on the education plans of unaccompanied asylum seekers from the Leaving Care Team into the Virtual School team. We are developing a Suffolk Youth Participation Strategy which will ensure all young people aged 16-25 to have access to the right education, training or employment and support to move into opportunities, and provide and integrated approach With support from the DfE and Suffolk County Council's own resources and donations, we ensure our care leavers have access to a laptop to support their education and connectivity. Over 250 laptops and 4G dongles have been distributed to care leavers from end of May 2020

We will deliver the Work Well Suffolk (employment support and coaching) to care leavers over 18 who are economically inactiveEmployment of 3 navigators for those referred by August 2020 Targets – 800 vulnerable youngAndrew Mawby
people accessing service

We will develop workshops for care leavers wishing to apply for roles	Develop application and	Megan O'Keefe	 Kickstart placements, to promote the available placements to all of our care leavers who are looking for work. The number of Apprenticeship starts has been low. This will have been affected by Covid. Through the 'Youth Pledge for Employers' we are engaging with small and medium sized businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk to generate job inspiration events, work experience and employment opportunities for 16-24-year-olds. There is a Department of Work and Pensions Single Point of Contact for Care Leavers in each area. The strategic lead in the DWP is a member of the Leaving Care Strategic Board. Pandemic meant this was delayed
within SCC	interview guidance for care leavers 2020- 2021		
Partner agencies will offer at least two apprenticeship opportunities to care leavers	3 care leavers apprenticeships with IBC, 2 with West Suffolk and 2 with East Suffolk council by 2022	Chris Wright	East Suffolk Council have 2 apprenticeships offered exclusively to care leavers from Oct 21. Recruitment for these posts is in progress. Building on the 3 care leavers from the initial pilot, a further 5 care leaver apprentices will be recruited within SCC. All 3 original apprentices have secured new opportunities once their apprenticeships end in October 2021. The Leaving Care Service is also significantly increasing the support available to managers and apprentices through external mentoring (Volunteering Matters) and an employer's support package being delivered by Inspire Suffolk.

Following the successful launch of a 2-year care leaver apprenticeship programme in 2019 we will seek the funding to continue the programme with a second cohort in 2021 and explore the possibility of increasing the number of places from 3 to 5.	Funding being applied for in in Sep 2020 If ongoing funding is successfully obtained the next intake on the programme will be Sep 2021 Targets – to fill all funded places available	Megan O'Keefe	 When successful, the model will be shared with further district and borough councils across Suffolk to replicate the offer or one or two opportunities within each organisation. We are adopting a 'Family Business Approach' to support care leavers into employment opportunities. Posts have been ringfenced posts for care leavers. Suffolk County Council (6 posts) East Suffolk Council (2 posts). Two posts have been recruited to, with further interviews taking place to fill the remaining posts. The care leavers employed in 2019/21 were employed in Business Admin, the Leaving Care Service and the HR Service. A care leaver who has been undertaking an apprenticeship with SCC has been offered full-time employment with a local organisation Anglia Care Trust when she finishes her course, following a successful placement with ACT.
We will develop and implement a multi-agency EET Panel to track and support 16 and 17year olds into education, employment and training	percentage of	Chris Wright/ Michael Gray	We have a Multi-disciplinary EET Panel in place in each of 3 areas in Suffolk where allocated workers are invited to discuss care leavers who are NEET and those on the periphery of NEET. Representation and active involvements on these panels includes the Virtual School, DWP, Work Well Suffolk, Inspire Suffolk, Apprenticeships Suffolk, and the Grandmentors project. This approach is proving successful in supporting young people into education, employment, and training, and has been very beneficial in

broadening the knowledge and networks of the social workers and personal advisors.
In September 2021 56.5% of Care Leavers aged 19-21 are in education, employment or training. This is slightly higher than the average for other local authorities in the Eastern Region and nationally
Pre-pandemic we had made good progress in proactively encouraging employers to offer apprenticeships and work experience.
We now have a Post-18 Lead who sits on the steering group for the Youth Pledge for Employers; to work collaboratively with Skills to encourage employers to offer work experiences and employment to care leavers.
Future residential re-engagement trips offered by Leaving Care/Virtual School at Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre will be in partnership with Minding the Gap, creating a platform to discuss EET options available to young people that attend, and providing an essential follow- up course shortly after the residential to continue moving NEET young people further towards their education or career aspirations.
We are working with the DWP, to support young people to engage with their Head Start Scheme, this has the specific aim of supporting young people with additional needs back into employment.
<u>Education, Employment & Training Former Relevant Care Leavers aged</u> <u>19-21 years.</u> (Jul 21) Suffolk 55.4% (4% of young people are not in EET because of pregnancy/parenting and 7% are not in EET because of illness / disability
(Mar 20) Statistical Neighbours 50.9%, East of England 54%, National 53%

Priority 2 Experience s Outcome Lead: Tina Hines		perience s	tability, feel safe and secure	
Priority actions:	Targets and timescales	Owner	Progress	
We will work with partners to avoid placements of care leavers in B&B	95% of care leavers in suitable provision End use of B&B by Suffolk system 2022	YPHAG	No Care Leavers are placed by SCC in B&B. In some instances, District and Borough Councils place young people in B&B in an emergency – these quickly get support to move to suitable accommodation. We are working with District and Borough Councils or a Care Leavers protocol to eliminate use of B&B entirely An Emergency Bed (up to 10 days) for Care Leavers is now in place to avoid the use of B&B and rough sleeping Transitions meeting are held monthly to discuss care leavers accommodation needs post 18. In addition, meetings are held with colleagues in ACS and NSFT to discuss child in care approaching 18 with additional needs around learning disabilities, mental and emotional wellbeing. Care Leavers aged 17-20 in Suitable Accommodation (Jul 21) Suffolk 91.5% (Of the small number not in suitable accommodation, half are in custody) Eormer Relevant Care Leavers aged 19-21 years in Suitable Accommodation (Jul 21) Suffolk 86.4% (Mar 20) Statistical Neighbours 85.8%, East of England 86%, National	

We will prevent homelessness of care leavers	No care leavers will become homeless Have in place Pre eviction panels by December 2020 Development of "second chance" scheme in 2021 Expansion of Staying Close to include move on from supported accommodation, commencing July 2020	YPHAG / Staying Close Board	 2 specific Housing Adviser Posts funded through the national Rough Sleeping Initiative and SCCs Staying Close programme are in place to identifying early risk of homelessness and to work with the National Transfer Scheme to provide suitable housing for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Multi-disciplinary bespoke meetings have taken place for 3 young people in recent months, the issues leading to eviction were around rent arrears, behavioural issues and non-engagement. In each event eviction and homelessness was prevented due to the proactive approach of the specialist housing PA and multi-disciplinary team from the district and boroughs to HRS contractors and FIAS. Monthly meetings take place with the District and Boroughs in each locality to identify and support young people with specific concerns around their housing need. With the aim being to prevent young people's eviction and homelessness, allowing any concerns to be addressed in a timely manner. A Joint Housing Protocol is being developed with District and Borough Councils. After consultation with young people and stakeholders, the following areas have emerged to be of the most benefit for a collaborative approach Improving transitions to adulthood Improving young people leaving custody, and improving their resettlement Supporting young people leaving custody, and improving their resettlement Supporting training and awareness for staff – mental health, and understanding the lived experience of care leavers Embedding a pre-eviction protocol and developing a second chance scheme (target Dec 2021)
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			The Staying Close scheme has been independent living and embedding tra Working with all system partners Stay informed transition plans for all care le Trauma Informed approach workshop Care / from Residential Care) have ta services supporting care leavers with of this	auma informed approach ving Close is developing trauma eavers. os about transitions (to Leaving aken place in August 2021 with all
			What is a trauma Realis informed approach? Reco	ises Ignises
			TRUNH- TRUNH-	
We will prioritise the needs of care	Revised Care	Suffolk Housing Board	An updated co-produced Care Leaver	
leavers for affordable, suitable and sustainable housing	Leaver offer agreed and in place April 2021		people leaving care We will continue "Our Voice" Care Leavers Groups. We	
	Suffolk System Housing Pledge in place 2021		A Housing Pledge is targeted for begi Housing Protocol	inning of 2022 as part of the Joint
			Suffolk Public Sector Leavers have pr strategy. This is inclusive of Care Lea recognising the vulnerability of this co spending of this via the Joint Housing such as Advocacy, Mediation, Mental Training	avers raising the awareness and ohort. We are influencing the g Protocol task group in areas

We will work with partners to quality assure semi-independent accommodation for care leavers	Minimum standards for unregulated accommodation for care leavers adopted. June 2021	YPHAG	 SCC have robust standards and active quality assurance for all child in care placements. We will be adopting the national standards for Care Leavers when these are finalised. We are adding and improving the minimum standards for our Supported and Independent living accommodation through the contract retender which will conclude in October 2021. This will include improved staff qualifications, physical standards of accommodation and SCC training for providers.
			We have worked to develop a comprehensive feedback form for young people to enable them to share their experiences of their accommodation providers. Technology has enabled SCC share to this form directly with young people's smart phones. The data and information young people share with us goes towards continued improvement of providers and the services we deliver for them, enabling us to continually implement then you said we did policy. Outcome: 98% of YP scored their overall satisfaction with their place as high to very high. Every YP knew who their key worker was, and 95% felt the service treated them with high levels of respect.
			We have worked with our current Supported Independent living providers to develop a service specification and contract for Houses of Multiple Occupation that accommodates 18+ UASC care leavers without leave to remain on their 18 th birthday. Compliance with these standards is monitored through our contract reviews.
			Benefits include, agreed standards of accommodation, support requirements, set prices from the service.
			Meetings are taking place with key East Anglian Registered Social Landlords to update them on SCC housing approach and to identify further housing options for key cohorts including care leavers

We will broaden our offer of accommodation to care leavers through investment	Finalise business case for purchase October 2020 Agree a systems position via Strategic Housing Board January 2021	Rob Hancock, Corporate Property	 Best efforts were made in a Business Case for SCC to acquire Buy-to- Let properties for use by Care Leavers. SCCs capital funding position did not permit this at this time. We are actively working with East Suffolk District Council to put in place a 'Housing First' Scheme for Care Leavers to ensure both the prioritisation of provision for complex young people and the provision of wrap around support. This is at feasibility stage only. In the new SCC housing development venture (planning properties in Sudbury and Lowestoft) we have proactively provided for the needs of Care leavers through the s106 obligations. At the North Lowestoft site we are planning for 2 x 4 bed CYP properties. A similar number are planned for the Sudbury site. We aim to extend this to influencing s106 planning more generally
Priority 3	Impr	oved access	to health

Outcome Lead: Garry Joyce

Priority actions:	Targets and timescales	Owner	Progress
Each child in care and care leaver to be entitled to free access to a range of sports and leisure opportunities	Available across Suffolk by June 2021	Chris Wright	Pre-pandemic we had agreed free gym membership. Covid challenges have meant that providers initially had to pull back on this.
			As of 30 th August, Leaving Care Staff in the West of the region can now refer young people to Abbeycroft Leisure, for 6-month access too 'gym and swim'.

Redesign mental health services to ensure that care leavers have appropriate access to emotional wellbeing services	 -Robust local provision in place for care leavers and UASC to receive specialist and dedicated mental health services within locally agreed timescales - As part of above, ensuring care leavers are recognised in the new crisis outreach service - Crisis outreach service - Crisis outreach service staffed by Dec 2020 - Launch of the service April 2021 - Robust local provision in place for mental health case management and treatment to continue for care 	Garry Joyce / Jo John / Beaulah Chizimba Anita Farrant Garry Joyce / Jo John / Beaulah Chizimba Garry Joyce / Jo John / Beaulah Chizimba Garry Joyce / Jo John / Beaulah Chizimba Garry Joyce / Jo John / Beaulah Chizimba	 Transition meetings are held with colleagues in Adult's Services and Mental Health Services to discuss children in care approaching 18 with additional needs around learning disabilities, mental and emotional wellbeing. This provides a mechanism to escalate concerns and draw in support. A dedicated mental health practitioner post is established within the Leaving Care Service A range of supports were put in place during the C-19 pandemic Additional capacity has been put in place with Barnados for young people to get on-line 1:1 support. Care Leavers are also able to access Kooth, an on-line service supporting emotional well-being A major transformation of mental health services is underway in Suffolk to implement an integrated, system wide approach that enables all children and young people to have positive mental wellbeing, to enable them to flourish and lead rich and fulfilling lives. The impact of this long- term development will start to be felt in 2021/22 including a new Crisis Outreach Service and improved support for young people with neurodevelopmental issues such as Autism and ADHD. Suffolk County Council are establishing a dedicated social work mental health team which will include providing support to vulnerable young people Additional capacity put in place with Barnados for young people to get on-line 1:1 support. Similarly, Kooth has on-line service that care leavers are able to access
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leavers moving	The 'Thrive' implementation plan has been reviewed and a new
from child to adult	timeline developed. Service specifications and pathway mapping of all
mental	CAMHS pathways is complete. Full demand and capacity mapping for
health services	the CAMHS service will be completed in July 2021.
until a complete	
handover is	Launch of the Crisis outreach service to provide near term stabilising
completed	support was delayed because of initial difficulties in recruiting practitioners. This is now on track to go live from early 2022.
– Develop	
processes to	
collect and	
monitor diversity	
trends for care	
leavers and	
UASC to assess	
the impact on	
meeting needs on	
delivery and	
transition.	
– Monitor the	
number of care	
leavers	
transitioning to	
adult mental	
health services,	
whose case	
management and	
treatment	
continues in	
children's mental	
health services	
until a complete	
 handover.	

	 Develop processes to collect experience feedback from care leavers on access to appropriate mental health services. Improve processes to collect feedback from recognised assessment tools to measure how well we are meeting care leaver's needs through access to specialist and dedicated mental health services 			
	health services when needed.			
We will improve the training and process for SDQs to ensure that we have an accurate insight into a young person's wellbeing and that their wellbeing needs are met.	Implement SDQ improvement action plan	Matthew Cooke Austine Adigwe		
Priority 4	Financial	stability and	independence	

Outcome Lead: Cliff James **Priority actions:** Targets **Progress Owner** and timescales We will explore how the Suffolk Discussion with **Cliff James** The pandemic has delayed this system can offer free or discounted Growth, Highways travel on public transport for care and Infrastructure re leavers scoping and feasibility by January 2021 Paper to Corporate Parenting Board for discussion by Summer 2021 Develop links with The Stone Foundation Group offer has recommenced post pandemic. We will provide financial advice and Wendy Wright independence training for all care Stone Foundation The Ready Steady Rent scheme aims to help young people develop to provide tenancy the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare for taking on their own leavers training for care housing tenancy and to sustain it successfully. leavers January Meeting between LCS and The Stone Foundation is underway to 2021 promote and engage care leavers with this offer. We are currently reviewing the staying put calculations considering the Universal Credit uplift to ensure that young people are not worse off when and if the government decided to withdraw this allowance. We are working with FIAS (welfare rights) to ensure the correct financial support is in place moving forward.

We will use our SCC colleagues to support financial independence and avoid money lenders/pay day loans	Wendy Wright	During the pandemic food parcels were distributed for young people that were struggling. There is an on-going arrangement with the Ipswich Furniture project to provide discounted / free furniture / white goods to care leavers Care Leavers able to participate in the county-wide Local Welfare Assistance Scheme We supported young people with All-Pay cards to help them reduce reliance on cash and stay in control of their money
Continue to develop our local offer to support young people's independence in accordance with their wishes.	Wendy Wright	 (Jul 2021) 93.1% in time compliance for Pathway Plans for Care Leavers aged 16-21 A £1750 allowance is in place for care leavers to set up home. This will be reviewed by December 2021. 'Welcome Packs' provide practical items to enable Care Leavers to set up home The Local Offer was reviewed and updated in July 2021.
We will explore broadening Council Tax exemption for Care leavers that do not reside in the local area; this will be in line with offers from comparable local authorities	Wendy Wright	There is an existing exemption in Suffolk for Care Leavers from having to pay Council Tax until age 25. (Suffolk were one of the first councils to achieve this) We have not yet secured this for Suffolk Care Leavers living outside of Suffolk

Priority 5

Experience strong family networks and be the best you can be

Outcome Lead: Cliff James

Priority actions:	Targets and timescales	Owner	Progress
We will ensure care leavers have a network of people that care and support about them	Signs of Safety 'Mapping' process piloted successfully in West Suffolk to be rolled out across county by November 2020 Every young person entering Leaving Care Service has completed mapping within 3 months	Wendy Wright	A specific 1 year post being scoped to embed Family Mapping across the Leaving Care Service and Children in Care Teams, recruitment request has been completed and will be submitted to DMT, with the hope that a successful candidate will take up post by December 2021. It is hoped the model will support young people, their families, and people important to them to investigate and invest in their future
We will ensure care leavers have the opportunity to experience activities and celebration events	We will ensure all care leavers have the opportunity to attend a residential break by December 2021	Chris Wright	Plans are in place to return to provide re-engagement residential trips and bushcraft events which were halted due to the pandemic. We currently have two deferred visits to explore which are likely to take place before the end of the year and a commitment from Thorpe Woodlands that they wish to continue working with the Leaving Care Service.

	30 young people being supported by a Mentor	Wendy Wright Chris Wright	 (July 2021) 29 mentors matched with young people in Care / Care Leavers aged 16+. This continues to be a successful and positive programme, offering young people one to one support back into education or other related and positive steps forward. Please see impact report for further details. (Also saved on TEAMS) Grandmentor impact report 2021 The 3 "Our Voice" Care Leaver groups have started meeting again in person post pandemic. Our Voice Group in the south of Suffolk have made a video about the stigma of being in care Our Voice Group in the west of Suffolk are re- purposing the youth area of West Suffolk House. The groups follow a, You Said We Did document to capture the work they are undertaking, this is reviewed within operational managers meetings and outcomes shared back to the Our Voice group. Joint BBQ with C2C in July 2021 in Thetford Forest. Planning of the Halloween Ball, for Care Leavers week, as requested by our young people. Young people have completed videos talking about various aspects of being a care leaver and their experience of being supported through the pandemic. The Source for young people in Suffolk
· ·	Arrangements in place with at least one venue in Ipswich, Bury and Lowestoft	Wendy Wright Chris Wright	Not yet achieved due to Pandemic

We will develop a range of Agree Positive Choices service offer for interventions and support to ensure care leavers are given every opportunity to parent well. Young Parent Pathway pilot expanded beyond Lowestoft to whole of Suffolk in 2021	Wendy Wright Nicole Hobson	The dedicated Positive Choices Service in Suffolk works with people who have a child previously removed from their care to address their underlying difficulties A pilot second phase "You Can Be" pilot ran to January 2020 focusing on prevention, working with women who have not yet had children removed. This has subsequently been taken forward by Ormiston Families There have been referrals made from leaving care to the project and this had led to some really good collaborative working and excellent communication. An example being, a young person, desperate to become pregnant, has engaged in work around safe sex and positive relationships and so far this has led to positive outcomes
Priority 6 Bo the best corporate	noront	

Priority 6 Be the best corporate parent

Outcome Lead: Walter McCulloch

Priority actions:	Targets and timescales	Owner	Progress
We will review our Corporate Parenting Board and make key recommendations	Key recommendations from review agreed by Board Sept 2020 LCS Strategy agreed Sept 2020 Annual Review CPB Sept 2021	Walter McCulloch	The Leaving Care Strategy (this is the action plan) has been agreedThere is a Lead member of the CPB identified to be the
			Ambassador for Care Leavers. Following recent County Council elections this needs to be reconfirmed.
			Plans are in place to ensure a Care Leaver and a Child in Care both sit on the CPB, and it is hoped co-chair the board with Cllr Burroughes.

We will invite representation from the Our Voice Group to the Corporate Parenting Board on a bi-annual basis	Agree at Sept 2020 Board, for implementation December 2020	Cliff James	 The Children in Care Council presented in in March 2021 to the board about their experiences of the past year. A 'You Said We Did' is being finalised for the Leaving Care Service demonstrating the impact of the voice of young people. Two care leavers are joining interviewing panels and University of Suffolk Social Work programme.
Leaving Care Strategy Group to be established, with clear set of priorities linked to this Strategy and the action plans	LCS Group in place November 2020	Walter McCulloch	Leaving Care Strategic Board in place and bi-monthly meeting
We will develop appropriate Champion roles for members of the Corporate Parenting Board and SCC Corporate Leadership Team	Agreed at CPB September 2020 Member roles to be agreed October 2020	Cllr Burroughs Allan Cadzow	Roles are to be agreed following the new administration in May 2021
We will appoint a Skills Champion for Care Leavers	October 2020	Cllr Burroughs	We need to nominate a 'Skills' champion for Care Leavers.
We will develop the Leaving Care Covenant with the LEP and the Chamber of Commerce	January 2021	Skills Champion Cliff James	We need to make progress with the Care Leaver's Covenant