

Derbyshire Leaving care - Update

July 2022 – Service Journey:

Positives identified by Ofsted:

- Pathway plans are written well and targeting actions appropriately. The aspirations, wishes and concerns of care leavers are apparent. The plans are ambitious, reflecting a determination for care leavers to succeed in their objectives.
- There is a focus on relationship-building and information-sharing to ensure an effective transition to the leaving care service at 18, but also on developing life skills.
- Inspectors saw many positive and creative examples of direct work being undertaken by leaving care workers. This is helping care leavers to develop the necessary skills to negotiate the opportunities and challenges of adulthood.

Continued...

- Care leavers' entitlements and the local authority 'offer' to care leavers are explained clearly, helping young people to understand what they are being offered and the choices that are available to them.
- Effective partnership working at a strategic level is beginning to have a positive impact on health provision for care leavers.
- Health partners have embraced the role of being a corporate parent and are developing initiatives that will support care leavers.
- Risks to individual care leavers are identified well; when risks escalate, including risks of exploitation, Leaving Care Safety Panel meetings demonstrate good consideration of risks, needs and actions to reduce risk.
- Work with care leavers between 21 and 25 years of age is sensitive and proportionate to their views and current circumstances.

2021 Inspection outcomes for improvement:

- Pathway Planning and action plans to be aligned with national guidance.
 - Leaving Care Workers updating PWP when significant changes occur for care leavers.
 - Consistency of monitoring Safety Panel outcomes for care leavers where there is risk and risk action plans, for clear follow-through of actions.
 - Continued and sustained positive changes.
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Development work

- Prison work – Young Persons Wing, space in Nottingham Prison for care leavers to have direct visits with their leaving care workers. Supporting transition from custody.
 - Prison work – sharing names of identified care leavers for better transition work and support planning.
 - Drop in groups available North and South – Parent to be groups and baby groups with peer support.
 - Chesterfield Football Group to be replicated in the South.
 - Cooking Group at Long Eaton – promoting independence skills.
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Continued partnership work and development:

- Health Action Plan – sharing this co-production work nationally at NLCBF.
 - Emotional Wellbeing Offer to Care Leavers and Leaving Care Workers.
 - Care Leaver Council Re-launch.
 - Severn Trent 70% discount launch 1st April.
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Voice of our Care Leavers:

Care leavers told inspectors that they valued the service.

They described the workers in the team as caring and supportive, sticking with them, without being overwhelming.