

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 18 July 2019.

PRESENT

Councillor G Musson (in the Chair)

Councillors L Chilton, C Dale, R Flatley, J Frudd, R Iliffe, D Taylor and J Twigg

Also in attendance was Councillor A Dale

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Coyle and Deborah Turner (union representative)

There were no declarations of interest.

14/19 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 May 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15/19 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – none received.

16/19 **DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** Councillor Alex Dale Cabinet Member for Young People attended the meeting and gave an update on the key achievements and challenges faced by the service over the last year.

Councillor Dale began by welcoming the scoping report put forward by Councillor G Musson and acknowledged that there were areas requiring improvement.

The in-house working from July this year had strengthened cross-working as a partnership collective. The vision was to concentrate on 1-to-1, leadership and partnerships and to ensure consistency with the provision.

The Corporate Parenting Board had recently changed structure; it now comprised of a more broad membership, with leads from districts, health, police and officers of the Council. Closer links with care leavers had been developed. There was a problem with members for the Care Council so Councillor Dale was feeding back more regularly on the work of the Board.

Entitlements – like to get to attain “special”

Council Tax Exemption – four districts had agreed to allow council tax exemptions for care leavers; the County Council was working with the others to adopt the idea.

With regards to the wider offer, everything was being pulled together: shadowing, tutoring, leisure, housing and publicity banners and more communication were being planned with partners.

The Chairman thank Councillor Dale for his thorough and informative presentation.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

17/19 REVIEW OF THE DERBYSHIRE CARE LEAVERS OFFER

Councillor Gary Musson presented the report seeking approval to commence the review of Derbyshire’s Care Leavers Offer in order to identify opportunities to improve the Derbyshire Care Leavers Offer so that it was equitable and consistent across the county. The review would focus on three components of the offer - accommodation, council tax exemptions and financial sustainability when a young person first leaves care to live independently.

The review was expected to be completed by December 2019 and would focus on the following key lines of enquiry:

- What processes do housing authorities have in place to meet the accommodation needs of care leavers, and how do these processes differ across the county?
- What challenges do “Leaving Care Workers” face when seeking accommodation for the young people they are supporting?
- How has each district or borough council arrived at its decision whether or not to exempt care leavers from council tax?
- What support is available to ensure that in the first few months of living independently the care leaver is in a financially sustainable position?

RESOLVED (1) to agree the scope of the review of Derbyshire’s Care Leavers Offer;

(2) to appoint Councillors C Dale, Chilton, Flatley, Frudd and Musson to the review working group, with Councillors Frudd and Taylor to substitute when necessary; and

(3) to submit progress reports and a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review.

18/19 **DERBYSHIRE HEALTHWATCH INTELLIGENCE REPORT** This item was postponed until the next meeting.

19/19 **DERBYSHIRE HEALTHWATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**
This item was postponed until the next meeting.

20/19 **WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20 RESOLVED** to share the Care Leavers scoping work with the other Improvement and Scrutiny committees.