

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	13 February 2019
Executive Member/Reporting Officer:	Councillor Oliver Ryan – Executive Member (Children’s Services) Richard Hancock – Director (Children’s Services)
Subject:	INCREASED CAPACITY WITHIN THE TRANSITION SUPPORT SERVICE
Report Summary:	<p>Publication of Tameside’s Local Offer to Care Leavers, outlining a full support offer and entitlements as set out as a requirement in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.</p> <p>To seek agreement to increase capacity within the Transition Support Service to improve timely transition and availability of suitable supported accommodation to care leavers.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>To approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the local offer for publication. 2. the increase in capacity to the transition support service under the management agreement as set out in appendix 2.
Corporate Plan:	In line with the Corporate Plan this proposal will provide evidence to the local authority commitment to improve the quality of social care practice by having a consistent and robust local offer that provides clarity in relation to entitlements and support offer from both Children’s Services and our partner agencies. The transition support service development will improve placement stability for our looked after children and reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences.
Policy Implications:	The local offer is a legislative requirement under the Children’s Social Work Act 2017 that came in to effect in April 2018 and we were required to deliver within 9 – 10 months. The full duties placed on the local authority to support care leavers to transition to independent adulthood is set out within volume 3 of the Children’s Act 1989.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The local offer per Appendix 1 includes details of the financial entitlements available to our Care Leavers. A review of the existing budget provision to support these entitlements has been carried out for 2019/20. There will be an estimated additional budget requirement of £ 0.104 million based on the projected numbers of Care Leavers in that financial year. This</p> <p>Table 1 in Appendix 2 provides the supporting details of the estimated additional cost of the 10 additional bedsits. The additional cost is estimated as a maximum annual cost of £0.082 million. This will be phased during 2019/20 and the maximum cost is dependent on age of the Care Leaver as stated in table 1.</p> <p>The additional cost of £ 0.186 million will be funded via additional revenue investment of £ 6.3m that has been provisionally allocated to the Directorate budget in 2019/20 to support existing demand pressures. Members should note that the additional investment of £6.3m is subject to approval at the 2019/20 Council budget</p>

meeting on 26 February 2019.

Legal Implications:
**(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

Under section 2 of the Social Work and Children's Act 2017 local authorities must publish information about services, which the authority offers for care leaver as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989, together with other services which the authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or preparing for, adulthood and independent living.

The information to be published is to be known as the local authority's "local offer for care leavers". and the authority is required to keep its local offer under review, and update it from time to time. Before publishing its local offer, or any updated version of it, a local authority has to consult persons who appear to it to be representative of care leavers in its area, about which local authority services may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. As with all consultation exercises, Members should satisfied themselves that appropriate consultation has been carried out in this instance before making their decision.

It is important that the offer is kept under review and an Equality Impact Assessment undertaken on a regular basis.

Risk Management:

It is not anticipated that this project will in itself present any specific risks, although the risks associated with the current position which this proposal is designed to in part address are detailed elsewhere in this report.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Richard Hancock, Director of Children's Services



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Social Work and Children's Act 2017 sets out the requirement for Local Authorities to publish a Local Offer to Care Leavers. The Bill received royal assent on the 27 April 2018 with Local Authorities provided until January 2019 to establish and publish their offer.

(1) A local authority in England must publish information about—

- (a) services which the local authority offers for care leavers as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989;*
- (b) other services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living.*

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), services which may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living include services relating to—

- (a) health and well-being;*
- (b) relationships;*
- (c) education and training;*
- (d) employment;*
- (e) accommodation;*
- (f) participation in society.*

(3) Where it considers appropriate, a local authority in England must publish information about services for care leavers offered by others which the local authority has power to offer as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989.

(4) Information required to be published by a local authority under this section is to be known as its "local offer for care leavers".

(5) A local authority must update its local offer for care leavers from time to time, as appropriate.

(6) Before publishing its local offer for care leavers (or any updated version) a local authority must consult relevant persons about which of the services offered by the local authority may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living.

(7) In this section—

"care leavers" means—

- 1. eligible children within the meaning given by paragraph 19B of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989;*
- (b) relevant children within the meaning given by section 23A(2) of that Act;*
- (c) persons aged under 25 who are former relevant children within the meaning given by section 23C(1) of that Act;*
- (d) persons qualifying for advice and assistance within the meaning given by section 24 of that Act.*

2. CURRENT POSITION

2.1 Tameside's Local Offer to care leavers has been developed in keeping with the above duties. The draft Local Offer is presented alongside a Leaving Care Service budget review of Care Leaver entitlements.

- 2.2 The Local Offer has been developed in consultation with Tameside care leavers supported by the Children's Service Participation Worker.
- 2.3 The Local Offer has further been reviewed by the Children in Care Council and presented to Corporate Parenting Board. The Local Offer has been developed with multi-agency colleagues with partner agency support offers detailed throughout.
- 2.4 Comparative Local Authority Local Offers have been reviewed in the formulation of Tameside's local offer to care leavers. This has been supported via our involvement in the North West Leaving Care Forum, engagement in the development of the Greater Manchester Care Leavers Trust and through involvement with the National Care Leavers Bench-marking Forum as supported by Catch 22.
- 2.5 Tameside's Local offer will remain under continued review. Future updates will need to include the developmental opportunities being established under the Government's £200 million Children's Social Care Innovation Programme. In 2018 Children and Families Minister Nadhim Zahawi announced up to £5 million for three new Social Impact Bond projects to support care leavers into education, employment or training. Recently announcing the delivery partner 'Spectra' to lead on the Care Leaver Covenant, which offers a platform for organisations to pledge their support for young people as they face the challenges of leaving care.
- 2.6 Initial concern has been voiced in relation to industry sign up to the Care Leaver's Covenant being centralised around London and Birmingham. A proposal via the Greater Manchester Care Leavers Trust is to engage Spectra in developing similar focus across Greater Manchester.
- 2.7 The Transition support service was a pilot service that has evidenced good outcomes, transitioning care leavers through supported bedsits in to independent living. The service currently consists of six support workers and one team manager supporting care leavers in seven bedsits as they transition to adult life. It is recognised there is capacity within this staff group to support more care leavers through this service. This will reduce pressures in accessing timely housing accommodation and enable smoother transition and be cost effective in comparison to extended time in costly private provision. The proposal is to increase the housing stock by 10 additional bedsits, increasing over a 12 month period with accommodation provided by a range of accommodation providers.

3 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Full proposals are set out in **Appendix 1** – 'Tameside Local Offer for Care Leavers' establishing the full Leaving Care Service offer alongside clarification of Leaving Care entitlement and multi-agency support services.
- 3.2 For future development proposed under the Greater Manchester Care Leavers Trust.
- Mentor's for all Care Leavers
 - Improving Health - Free prescriptions
 - Free Public Transport across Greater Manchester – Led by Mayor for Greater Manchester Andy Burnham.
 - Preventing Intentional Homeless status.
 - Shared Local Authority purchase of a web based platform or App for Information sharing.
 - To increase housing stock supported by the transition support service from seven to seventeen over a 12 month period and under a five year management agreement.

4 STRENGTHS AND RISKS

4.1 Strengths –

- 4.2 Tameside's local offer has been established under the legislative framework set out within The Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 4.3 Tameside's care leavers have been consulted throughout the development of the Local Offer
- 4.4 The Local Offer evidences multi-agency support across all areas.
- 4.5 The local offer provides clarity in relation to expectations for service delivery. Enabling challenge from our care leavers, Independent Reviewing Officers and supporting professionals.
- 4.6 The Local Offer establishes a robust entitlement offer, providing clarity with regards to eligibility status and the authorisation process for each financial element.
- 4.7 The Local Offer has been designed to appeal to care leavers.
- 4.8 The Local Offer will have a limited print run for office availability across the department and key partners.
- 4.9 Increased capacity in the transition support service will deliver improved outcomes via more timely transition in to independence. It will reduce demand on high cost independent providers. Care leavers will be able to bid on properties and be supported to move on in line with their needs and preparedness to independence.
- 4.10 **Appendix 1** includes details of the financial entitlements available to our Care Leavers. A review of the existing budget provision to support these entitlements has been carried out for 2019/20. There will be an estimated additional budget requirement of £ 0.104 million based on the projected numbers of Care Leavers in that financial year.
- 4.11 **Table 1** in **Appendix 2** provides the supporting details of the estimated additional cost of the 10 additional bedsits. The additional cost is estimated as a maximum annual cost of £0.082 million. This will be phased during 2019/20 and the maximum cost is dependent on age of the Care Leaver as stated in table 1.
- 4.12 The additional budget requirement stated in para's 4.10 and 4.11 (£ 0.186 million) will be funded via additional revenue investment of £ 6.3m that has been provisionally allocated to the Directorate budget in 2019/20 to support existing demand pressures. Members should note that the additional investment of £6.3m is subject to approval at the 2019/20 Council budget meeting on 26 February 2019.

Risks

- 4.11 Continued increase of the Looked After Children's population.
- 4.12 Improved information sharing and dissemination of the entitlement offer may create increased demand.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 See full drafted local offer for details and **Appendix 1**.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 As set out at the front of the report.