



16 October 2024

Title	Care leavers' Offer
Purpose of the report	To note the updated Care Leavers' Offer
Report status	Public report
Report author	Maria Young - BFfC Director for family Help & Safeguarding
Lead Councillor	Cllr Wendy Griffith, Lead Member for Children
Corporate priority	Thriving Communities
Recommendations	1. That the updated Care Leavers' Offer be noted

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The Local Authority has a duty to provide a clear published offer for Care Leavers. Reading (Brighter Futures for Children's) Care Leavers' Offer has been updated, after a review in March 2023, undertaken by Mark Riddell MBE, the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers and a subsequent Ofsted inspection in May 2024.

1.2. The Care Leavers' Offer combines all the services on offer to Care Leavers, inclusive of financial support, in one document. This document is accessible at Brighter Futures for Children's Young People's zone:

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/young-peoples-zone/care-leavers/>

2. Policy Context

2.1. BFfC's Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the local authority's Corporate Parenting Responsibilities to Reading's Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

2.2. A published Care Leavers' Offer is a requirement as part of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities. The Care Leaver's Offer contributes to the strategic theme of 'Thriving Communities' as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

3. The Proposal

3.1. The Care leavers' Offer sets out the eligibility for services and the detailed offer to Care leavers. This offer covers several domains, inclusive of: Health, education, training & employment, living arrangements (accommodation), money and finances, practical and life skills, culture and identity, leisure activities and emotional development and wellbeing. It also details services available to support with any legal or immigration issues.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1. Corporate Parenting is the term used to refer to the collective responsibility of the Council and its partner agencies to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who are Looked After; that is, children and young people for whom the authority has, or shares, parental responsibility, or for whom the Authority provides care and accommodation on behalf of their parents.
- 4.2. The Authority also has a duty and responsibility towards Care Leavers aged 16 to 25 years. These are not all young people who have been in care, but those who meet the criteria defined in the Care Leavers' Act 2002.
- 4.3. The proposals within this report are all in line with the local authority's strategic aims.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. There are no material climate implications resulting from the recommendation(s) of this report.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. Representatives of care leavers have been involved in the review of our Care Leavers' Offer. This includes our financial offer to Care Leavers. Our Care Leavers helped us with the design and content of the Offer.
- 6.2. We have also worked with partner agencies such as GLL, Reading's leisure partner, and the Integrated Care Board on the content of the Offer, including gym membership and free prescriptions.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. The recommendations of this report are intended to promote equality of experience and opportunity for Reading's care leavers.
- 7.2. It is foreseen that the updated Care Leavers' Offer would have a positive impact upon care leavers.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. No relevant considerations have been identified that are not detailed elsewhere in this report.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. There are no legal implications to the updated Care Leavers' Offer

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. The services and allowances provided are fully funded from Brighter Futures for Children's existing budget. There are no financial implications for the council.

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1. The Care Leavers' Offer has been made available to Care Leavers in July 2024 and is published on the website.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1. There are none.

13. Appendices

Care leavers' Offer

14. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. Revenue Implications

There are no additional revenue implications arising from this Offer.

14.2. Capital Implications

There are no capital implications arising from the plan.

15. Value for Money (VFM)

There are no VFM implications arising from the plan and is within the exiting budget.

16. Risk Assessment.

No identified risk