

CARE LEAVERS

Strengths:

- Personal Advisor (PA) profiles to introduce the Care Leaver to their PA, explains their role, a little bit about them and key contact information.
 - Most Care Leavers are well supported by their PAs, a particular strength is our support to Care Leavers seeking asylum.
 - PA contact with Care Leavers remains high as does timely Pathway Plan completion and the number of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation.
 - PAs understand the needs of young people, are committed to development of good relationships and undertake skilled work with care leavers.
- Care Leavers are provided with information on their health histories and entitlements with an extensive Local Offer.
- We have two dedicated Asylum Teams for 18+ Care Leavers.
- Successfully recruited to the second Homelessness Prevention Worker role in October 2021 supporting young people who may experience housing issues at an early stage and also supporting improved partnership working with Ds & Bs.
 - Care leavers can register with 3 Surrey housing departments.
 - Council Tax Exemption offered by all districts and boroughs from 1 April 2022.
 - Dedicated mental health practitioner and services for emotional wellbeing.
 - Established bi-monthly accommodation panels.
 - Continued to provide additional financial support to Care Leavers during the pandemic in terms of matching the governments enhanced offer and via utilisation of the Household Support Fund.
 - Recently reviewed and updated the Local Offer, to be finalised in first quarter of 2022.

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Areas for Improvement / Priorities for 2022:

- Improve arrangements for teams impacted by staff absence.
- Continue development of an affordable local accommodation offer, implementing new commissioning arrangements & repurposing existing accommodation options.
- Reduce the number of care leavers who are NEET, ensuring there is a consistent offer through our partnerships [e.g. Drive Forward Foundation} and promotion of opportunities across Surrey.
- Finalise practice guidance to support consistent practice with Care Leavers across all teams and reduce variability in the quality of written records & pathway plans.
- Ensure all Personal Advisors are confident in their discussions about the Local Offer particularly around rights and entitlements.
- Implement a Care Leavers Housing Protocol – due in the first quarter of 2022.
- Full Implementation of the Care Leavers' Covenant.
- Learning from the Coram Bright Spots survey of Care Leavers (concluding March 2022) and how this is utilised to shape service delivery.
- Develop a young person friendly finance policy.
- Improve access to services for Care Leavers placed outside of Surrey.
- Ensure Care Leavers benefit from partnership work with Money House