

## Education, employment and training opportunities for our care experienced young adults.

When a child is cared for by the Local Authority, the Council becomes their corporate parent. As a result, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children and young adults who are looked after by us. A care experienced young person is someone who has been cared for by the Local Authority and they are supported until they are 25 years old. A child or adolescent in care, or our care experienced young adults look to us to be the best parent we can be.

As a corporate parent we want the best for our children, adolescents and young adults so that we can see them: reaching their potential at school or college, gaining employment that meets their needs; being healthy and enjoying good relationships with their peers and families. Working together as partners we have the opportunity to offer our children and young adults opportunities including leisure, hobbies and interests. We want our children, adolescents and young adults to have the opportunity to enter adulthood equipped with the skills to lead successful independent lives and to make their way in education and employment, to become respected and valued members of their communities.

At the moment we know that not all our Care Experienced Young adults are being offered the opportunities to flourish as we would like. In Portsmouth we have 375 care experienced young people of only 201 are in education employment or training. 88 young people are in higher education, 5 are engaged in an apprenticeship and 58 of our children recorded as Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) are our Care Experienced Young Adults Seeking Asylum. We have 171 young people recorded as NEET.

We know that for some young people accessing Education employment or training can present with challenges. We need to take the long view for some of our young people as we know that projects with our most vulnerable young adults will meet challenges along the way, but flexible, resilient partnerships with shared goals and a long-term vision create positive outcomes. Providing a platform for our young people and supporting them to engage with work or training can support people from a heightened risk of long periods out of employment, offending behaviour, teen pregnancy and ill health.

We need to think differently about the opportunities for our young people including looking to our cultural partners who are well positioned to offer innovative approaches to some young people who have struggled with formal learning.

### What we are doing

- We have the Youth Hub that supports our care experienced young adults to access work opportunities as set out in the PCC/DWP support for Care Experienced Young People paper
- To build on this the Local Authority are launching The Employability Academy with the aim of creating a service that will support employers to work alongside our young people and create a service that provides amazing and innovative opportunities for our young adults, some of who we know will find it difficult to make the first step into employment.
- Personal advisors attend training and further training offer is being developed by the virtual school in regards to personal opportunity plans.
- Working with Shaping Portsmouth

### What we aspire to achieve:

- Full opportunities across the City to offer care experienced young adults opportunities for apprenticeships, traineeships or similar.
- Develop work tasters for our children we care for, and care experienced young adults across the city which will be supported by personal advisors.
- Creating a post for an apprentice within the Employability Academy.
- Additional financial support for our care experienced young people starting employment
- To work with Skill Mill for children and young adults open to Youth Justice Service
- We have several care experienced young adults who are waiting for their Recourse to Public Funds and therefore would like to develop their potential through a programme of learning and creative activities and work towards integration in the UK through an active programme of volunteering.

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10/7/23