

## **Employability support for Care Leavers - report December 2022- February 2023**

### **Overview and background to role**

Previous reports detail the background to the role, there have been no significant changes to the role and the Careers & Progression Advisor continues to support the Youth Hub and Care Leavers for 2.5 days per week, details specified in previous reports.

This is the first report for Care Leavers for the 2023 year.

### **Referrals:**

Referrals continue to be received from PA's for Care Leavers who are ready to engage in EET. All young people are checked for their Universal Credit status with our DWP work coaches based in the youth hub. The advisers then email both PA's and work coaches with contact details for both to ensure partnership working. Any young people who require additional support are then allocated to a Careers and Progression Advisor or an Employment Advisor for 1-1 support.

Our DWP colleagues within the youth hub regularly check with the Adviser for any young people who have a care leaver marker when they make applications for Universal Credit, we can then link up the professionals working with the young people to ensure holistic support. Our DWP work coaches will also bring young people who they feel are better fitted for the Youth Hub from main job centres to the Youth Hub.

Allocated workers work in partnership with young people's work coaches and PA's to support young people into EET.

Our DWP colleagues can pull young people from the main job centre to the youth hub if it is identified that they require extra support. If the young people are Care Leavers their PA will be contacted to let them know that the Youth Hub are supporting them to ensure holistic support.

PA's often have queries regarding young people who are based at the main job centre, this can also result in young people being moved from the main job centre to the youth hub without a referral received from PA's.

Often young people may close to the youth hub and be reopened later when they are ready to engage.

### **Number of new referrals**

November 2022: 2 referrals from PA's, 3 pulled main job centre, 1 reopened at PA request, 2 requests from PA to support with college SWAP applications- complete, 1 x further request for support- one off- complete, 1 reopened via youth hub. Total: 10

December 2022: 2 referrals from PA, 1 query PA, 3 pulled from main job centre, 1 out of area. Total: 7

January 2023: 5 pulled from main job centre, 1 referral from PA, 1 PA query, 1 reopened- Gosport SC, 1 re-engaged following closure. Total: 9

### **Open Care Leavers:**

Currently the Youth hub has 39 Care Leavers open for support, including 2 out of area Care Leavers.

### **What is going well:**

#### **Support offered includes:**

- CV writing, interview skills, soft skills, employment application support
- Access to opportunities
- Support with travel via work coaches
- Supportive workshops and information sessions.
- Applications to FE and other training providers.
- Access to IT to support online course attendance.
- Longer appointments than given by general work coaches, offering a tailored approach to meet the needs of young people.
- Sign posting to partners for opportunities such as The Princes Trust programme.
- Consulting with external partners to support attendance at courses.
- Personal and safety support as necessary to support young people.
- A friendly, welcoming, relaxed environment with access to a variety of professionals who hold a multitude of information to support our young people. Working together to support young people to avoid DWP sanctions for non-attendance.
- Visits to Universities as requested by young people.

The adviser regularly provides information, advice, and guidance to PA's to support progression with their young people.

Majority of live referrals are engaged with their case worker.

Excellent working relationships with DWP work coaches which means young people who do not engage can be supported through accessing Universal Credit job coach in the Youth hub. This has resulted in young people who have not engaged through the referral process being monitored when they attend for their appointments with their Work Coaches. Giving us clarity on progression and another way in to support, as necessary.

Increased relationships with PA's & Youth Hub staff. The adviser receives queries from PA's weekly regarding Information, advice, and guidance and for universal credit support. It is beneficial in building relationships with PA's and offering support via PA's to those young people who are not ready to engage. Queries related to Universal Credit by signposting directly to Job Centre Coaches to resolve issues for example support with rail fares, IT, and interview clothes.

Partnership working continues, Youth Hub works with Boost, Princes Trust, Abri, Reach 4 skills, Learning Skills Solutions, Southampton youth hub as well as our local colleges' and Universities.

PA's and Work Coaches have built better relationships and are able to correspond with each other on behalf of young people, where there is a risk of young people being sanctioned.

The Youth hub is now also offering regular jobs fairs at the civic offices and will be offering an Apprenticeship fair during apprenticeship week.

The youth Hub continues to make connections with education/ employment and training providers and now has a dedicated Employment Advisor responsible for organising events. The Learning Place will be working in partnership with the youth hub to offer maths and other courses.

A variety of courses, employment opportunities and training has been offered to young people within this quarter to include SIA, CTEC, college applications, university applications and visits, maths courses, work experience, apprenticeship opportunities, Princes Trust courses and Traineeships.

### **Youth Hub overview- My Future in Portsmouth**

53.61% young people who have received Youth hub support to employment as of Monday 30.1.23.

There is still no outcome as to whether the youth hub will continue after the May deadline.

### **Feedback:**

The Youth Hub has requested feedback to support the extension of the hub and has received excellent feedback from three PA's. Main comments noted is how well the service collaborates with PA's, provides invaluable support to our young people, and communicates effectively with professionals regardless of if this is for individual young people known to the youth hub or to respond to queries for support.

### **Barriers**

Housing can be a barrier for our young people as some experience uncertainty once they turn 18 years old.

Mental health can be a barrier to accessing support and being work ready.

Changes in PA's.

### **Future planning & improvement:**

**To develop the service and specifically the proposed Care Leaver Employer Academy the following needs to be progressed:**

- Collaboration with local providers could allow for programmes to support progression such as summer taster classes.
- Group workshops designed for Care experienced young people

- Engagement with employers for Work experience, traineeships, and apprenticeship opportunities
- Improved outreach provision.
- Partnership working with YOT to deliver specific progression activities.
- CAS specific to care experienced young people.
- Volunteering opportunities, work experience and more ESOL and other opportunities for our UAM and those with no recourse.
- Increase the time spent with DWP partners in our Youth Hub to build on their Care Leaver knowledge of trauma informed practice and ensure all Care Leavers accessing Universal Credit through the Youth Hub are monitored and do not slip through the net.