



Title of meeting: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 25 June 2024

Subject: Response to the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel's recommendations regarding a review into education, employment and training opportunities for our care experienced young adults aged 18-25 years.

Report by: Sarah Daly, Director Children, Families and Education

Cabinet Member: Councillor Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to set out the response of officers to the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel's recommendations arising from a review into education, employment and training opportunities for our care experienced young adults aged 18-25 years.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel is thanked for its work in undertaking the review.
- 2.2 That Cabinet notes the recommendations of the review, which are set out below:
- 2.3 Consideration is given to developing a strategy to secure sustainable funding and resources for: the Careers and Employability Hub; and the Employability Academy which is run from the Hub. This would be a mix of external funding and PCC resources building on what has already been put in place between PCC and our partners.**
- 2.4 The Employability Academy considers expanding trauma informed training for all educational establishments as well as employers.



- 2.5 Work should be undertaken with Shaping Portsmouth to agree a communication that can be sent to the business community outlining the benefits of employing care experienced young adults and ask that they consider ringfencing a number of posts. A shorter version should also be prepared for Members so they can circulate it to their business contacts.**
- 2.6 Officers from the CFE Directorate liaise with the Council's Business Development team and Portsmouth Social Enterprise to promote the Employability Academy and ensure businesses become more involved in offering apprenticeships.**
- 2.7 Consideration be given to care experienced young adults being provided with a bus pass for a month to enable them to get to their employment or training before they receive their first salary payment (this offer should also consider other modes of transport such as hire bikes and scooters). This will be part of the Care Leaver offer.**
- 2.8 A progression pathway for Personal Advisers (PAs) be explored which could develop their skills and help the council to retain them. PAs are vital in helping getting care experienced young adults into education, employment and training.**
- 2.9 The Council continue to build on existing campaigns to increase the number of foster carers in the city in order to reduce the numbers of care experienced children being placed outside of Portsmouth. This would reduce the cost and keep their valuable skills within the city. In particular, it is recommended that we should reach out to communities that currently do not have many foster carers.**
- 2.10 Cabinet Members are requested to work with their directorates about identifying opportunities for care experienced young adults within the council and explore whether a number of posts in each directorate could be ring fenced for them.**
- 2.11 In addition to the formal recommendations the panel reflected the importance of member training to enhance the understanding of the role of the corporate parent.**

3. Background

- 3.1 On 15 June 2023 the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel agreed to prioritise the review into education, employment and training opportunities for our care experienced young adults aged 18-25 years.**



3.2 The Panel learned that too many of our care experienced young adults are not being offered the range of opportunities they need to enable them to access suitable education, employment and training which in turn is limiting their aspirations and achievements. It was therefore thought this was a good topic to put forward to Scrutiny Management Panel. The Scrutiny Management Panel agreed this topic on 26 July 2023.

3.3 The Panel met formally on 4 occasions and received evidence from the following witnesses:

- Sam Bushby, Deputy Director Children and Families
- Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Education
- Amanda Percy, Post 16 Skills and Campaigns Manager, Education
- Tina Henley, Headteacher of the Virtual School & College, Education
- Keely Mitchell, Head of Adolescents and Young People, Children & Families
- Sarah Read, Service Leader, Children & Families
- Care experienced young adults
- Personal Advisers (PAs)
- Education providers including City of Portsmouth College, Prince's Trust, HTP Apprenticeship College, HSDC (Havant and South Downs College) and University of Portsmouth

3.4 The Scrutiny Panel's review document can be found via the following link: [Education Employment and training for care experienced young adults review - FINAL.pdf \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](#)

4. Integrated impact assessment

4.1 An IIA will be produced for each specific scheme or policy change arising from the recommendations made, at such time as they are planned for implementation.

5. Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the specific recommendations and officer responses set out in the report, but legal support can be provided as may be necessary in connection with the implementation of recommended initiatives.

6. Director of Finance's comments

6.1 The budget implications of the action plans will need to be monitored along with the rest of the Directorate and Portfolio budgets, to ensure that the proposals remain affordable and can be met within the grant terms (where appropriate). Where one off funding has been identified for recurring commitments, a sustainable alternative funding source will need to be found, or the plans revised.



Signed by: Sarah Daly - Director of Children, Families & Education

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: