

Officer Executive Decisions

Care Leavers Offer and Supported Accommodation

Delegation from Leader and Cabinet and date: On 6 March 2019, the Cabinet considered a report which set out the changes to national policy and legislation in relation to young people leaving the care of the Council. This included a requirement for more innovative and effective services to be developed with and delivered for Care Leavers and an extended provision for Personal Advisor support for all Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years old.

The report stated that owing to the changes to the national policy and legislation, the Council was required to reassess its services for young people leaving the care of the Council and publish a Care Leavers' Offer by September 2018. A draft Offer was set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), to finalise Option 2 if it can be provided within budget. However, if additional resources beyond New Burdens funding are required, a further report will be presented to Cabinet (decision no. 40/2018 refers). N.B. Option 2 was 'publish a multi-agency, enhanced Offer co-produced with our Care Leavers.'

The report may be viewed online:

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?IId=21293&Opt=3>

Decision: In accordance with the Cabinet decision, the local offer for care leavers was published and may be viewed here:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200260/local_offer/761/local_offer_for_care_leavers

Reasons for Decision: This will enable the Council to fulfil its legislative duties for Care Leavers, ensure the services provided are both sustainable and fit for purpose, produce the outcomes required, and progress the Council to be inspection ready.

The Council Plan asks the Local Authority to "continue to play a major role in helping improve the lives of the people of Medway by getting them into work, improving education prospects, creating fantastic leisure and cultural opportunities and continuing to encourage healthy lifestyles and independent living." This is even more relevant to the young people for whom Medway is the Corporate Parent.

Date of Decision: The Local Offer for care leavers was published in October 2018.

Officer: Vanessa White, Head of Provider Services, 01634 331434
vanessa.white@medway.gov.uk

Details of any other options considered and rejected: These were set out in the Cabinet report.

Conflicts of Interest: None