



The Early Help & Family Engagement Offer for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Rotherham

2017

Early Help Offer to Looked after Children and Care Leavers

Introduction

The Early Help and Family Engagement Service is based in nine Locality Teams, that are based across three areas of Rotherham; North, South and Central. These multi-disciplinary teams provide intensive, focused support to children and families in order to support them address issues such as:

- Parenting
- Issues related with behaviour
- Mental and emotional wellbeing
- Substance misuse issues.
- Domestic abuse
- Debt, benefits and housing related issues
- Risky behaviour online and actual.
- Issues related to attendance, and education employment and training (NEET)
- Relational based issues.
- Family dysfunction.
- Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Crime and anti-social behaviour.

The service holds a range of expertise to support families who are experiencing issues and are relevant for a range of different age groups such as the early years; teens, young adults and parents/carers.]The service uses the Early Help Assessment at the heart of intervention in order to understand holistic need across a family and create a plan that effects long term, sustainable change. This plan then has the capacity to involve community based resources, for example schools and the voluntary sector. (www.rotherham.gov.uk/earlyhelp)

Early Help contributes to the corporate Rotherham Priorities to ensure that:

- Children and young people are healthy and safe from harm
- Children and young people start school ready to learn for life
- Children, young people and their families are ready for the world of work

The Early Help & Family Engagement Service is committed to contributing to the support of LAC young people and deliver on priorities defined by the Looked After Children's Council:

- We will help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm.
- We will listen to what you have to say and make sure that your views influence how we work with you.
- We will help you to learn and do your best at school and college.
- We will help you to be happy and healthy.
- We will help you to learn new skills as you grow up and become an adult.
- We will ensure that you are in control with plans and decisions about you and your future.
- We will help you take part in activities that you enjoy or that you are interested in.
- We will help you to explore and be ready for the world of work
- We will help you to be proud of yourself and celebrate your individual beliefs.

Early Help Offer to Looked After Children and Families and Care Leavers

When there are young children in families, Early Years work can be carried out by Childrens Centres and Family Support workers in the service. This type of intervention can provide the opportunity for children to learn through play and be ready for school through a range of activities e.g. baby massage, stay and play etc.

Early Help Family Support Workers and partners from health are based in localities and work closely with Early Help providing support to children and families that may require help with a range of issues, for example:

- General family support to help with issues affecting the family.
- Support with accessing nursery or school.
- Return to work courses – CV writing and interview skills
- Debt and benefit advice
- Healthy eating weight management.
- Support and advice around parenting
- Advice and support to access free entitlement to early education for their children

Details of Childrens Centres and activities can be found here: www.rotherham.gov.uk/childrenscentres

Early Help can offer support to parents/carers/ foster carers to improve their children's attendance at school, address behaviour and relationship difficulties and promote positive family relationships.

Requests for support can be made by young people or their families by telephoning 01709 334905 or completing a self-referral via the website; https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forms/form/586/en/early_help_request_for_support or directly by schools or Social Workers with the consent of the foster carer and their child.

The Early Help lead manager (LAC and Care Leavers); Assistant Head of the Virtual School and the LAC and Care Leaver Managers meet half termly to:

- Review the needs of LAC /CL young people resident in Rotherham and ensure that co working arrangements are in place in localities to support children and young people and contribute to their Personal Education Plans e.g. behaviour, attendance post 16 transitions.
- Review the needs of young people educated out of borough, and identify post 16 transition requirements, coordinate input from the host local authority or provide direct support to young people if they are planning to return to Rotherham.
- Track progress and support outcomes of individual looked after children and Care leavers and destinations of 16-to 19 year olds.
- Ensure that Early Help Locality Managers are made aware of their LAC/CL cohort and that this is updated and shared on a regular basis to enable visibility of need and to ensure that LAC/CL are supported appropriately.

Workers in localities can support LAC and care leavers in education by:

- Providing specific interventions identified within the PEP to support young people to engage in learning e.g. confidence building, support with emotional wellbeing.
- Marketing the annual careers employer event and offering support to young people and carers to attend.
- Provide written updates to the Virtual School and where required attend PEP reviews.
- Attend PEP reviews for LAC young people in year 10 and 11 identified by the Virtual school as requiring additional support to make a successful transition to post 16 learning
- Attend post 16 PEP reviews to as requested by the Virtual School to support young people to remain in learning.

Support for Young people Not in Education Employment and Training(NEET) Up to The Age of 20 (25 for people with learning difficulties and disabilities)

The Early Help Locality Manager (LAC /CL), Virtual School, LAC and Care Leaver Service regularly review all LAC and care leavers who are NEET (aged 16-20) in order to identify young people who are able to move into learning and employment.

Social Workers and Personal Advisers (Care Leaver Service) lead on supporting young people to identify key actions to be included in their PEP and Pathway Plan to achieve successful education and employment outcomes. Where young people need additional support to engage in education employment and training they can be linked to an Early Help worker via a co-working request to Early Help.

The Early Help Worker (LAC / CL) will hold a caseload of young people NEET and work closely with Social Workers, Personal Advisers and the Virtual school to provide a range of support including

- Careers advice and guidance
- Developing an action plan and offering support to engage in a learning or employment opportunity
- Support to access group work programmes to develop self-efficacy and employability skills
- Support to access to work tasters or work experience
- Identifying and advocating with employers and learning providers to secure opportunities to match the young people's needs

LAC and Care leavers aged 16-19 who are pregnant or parents, resident in Rotherham and NEET will be supported to access Children's Centre and Early Help services whilst exploring informal and formal learning opportunities.

Early Help also provides a range of borough wide youth work personal development programmes including art, drama, targeted youth work programmes and youth voice projects including Youth Cabinet and Looked After and Care Leavers Council groups. These groups can be accessed by any LAC or Care leavers and more information is available on the Youthi website (www.youthi.org) or via Early Help Locality teams

Outcome -Every Looked After Child/ Care Leaver Enjoys Learning and Achieves Their Full Potential

Objectives

- 1. Enable foster carers to access resources to support their children to be ready to learn.**
- 2. To provide Looked After Children and Care Leavers with accurate, up-to-date and objective information about personal and lifestyle issues, learning and career opportunities, progression routes, choices, where to find help and advice, and how to access it.**
- 3. Young people (Looked After and Care Leavers) have a robust personal education plan up until their 18^h birthday which incorporates clear and realistic learning and career goals and provides excellent opportunities for transition to adulthood.**
- 4. Ensure that young people (Looked After or Care Leavers) receive appropriate high quality advice and support to engage and succeed in learning and employment.**

The Early Help Service is underpinned by a whole family ethos and has a range of professionals that work as ‘Lead Professional’ to coordinate the right support at the right time for children and their families. Whilst the service does not differentiate across age groups, the following table identifies the support that would be available for different age children across families as part of their package of support. This would generally be coordinated by one person from the service.

Support in Early Years

Activity	Lead	PI
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness of_ to foster parents of the Early Help Children’s Centre offer within their local area and engage them in the offer ;• Work with Early Years to ensure that all Looked After Children access their free entitlement to early education;• Work alongside Social Care colleagues to provide support to foster families who are facing challenges in supporting their children and who need a bespoke support packages to get back on track.	Early Help Children’s Centre Lead Early Help Locality Manager School Effectiveness – Family Information Service. LAC Fostering team and Early Help	Increased attendance of foster parents and LAC at children’s centres Increase in take up of two year old places by LAC children.

		Increased stability of fostering placements
Support in Compulsory Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works alongside Social Care colleagues to provide support to foster families who are facing challenges in supporting their children and who need a bespoke support packages to get back on track in learning. 	LAC Fostering team and Early Help	Increased stability foster care placements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Help and Youthi website is available to all young people and carers Implement co-working arrangements to localities for children and young people who are identified requiring additional support to engage in learning. Support LAC to use UCAS search and apply to apply for post 16 opportunities and application to universities One to one careers guidance and action planning from year 9 -13 for all LAC and Care leavers delivered by appropriately qualified staffed Engage and support LAC in key stage 3 to attend university and college open days Review of Educational Health and Care plans for LAC /CL with learning difficulties from year 10 onwards Half termly review meeting Locality manager lead with Virtual school to review PEP and identify “at risk” NEET students and coordinate co working arrangements where additional needs are identified. Attendance of Early Help workers at annual personal education plan reviews of LAC young people who are receiving support from EH Delivery of an annual aspirations/ careers event for young people and their carers/ care staff (Borough wide). Ensure that LAC and care leavers access bursary advice 	<p>Early Help and Family Engagement Service</p> <p>Social Care and Virtual School</p> <p>Schools and Colleges</p> <p>Schools and Colleges</p> <p>Virtual School EH Locality Lead manager</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Locality manager and Virtual school</p> <p>Early Help Workers</p> <p>Early Help and LAC /Care Leaver teams</p>	<p>Improved Attendance</p> <p>Reduced Fixed term exclusions</p> <p>Improved GCSE attainment</p> <p>Year 11 destination for LAC in line with borough average for all young people</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that foster carers are made aware of role of Early Help in the provision of information advice and guidance and access to personal development opportunities 	Virtual School/Fostering (on behalf of EH)	
Support Services Post 16 - Partnership with Schools, Colleges and Educational/ Employment support services.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a post 16 forum to support transitions and re-engage NEET LAC and Care leavers Provide data to colleges to inform the development of appropriate provision and support for vulnerable learners Work with post 16 learning partners to support a change of education offer managed moves to prevent LAC /Care leavers from becoming NEET. Provide careers guidance and one to one advocacy and support to enable suitably qualified young people to enter apprenticeships, make applications to university or gain necessary qualifications.(Schools lead) Ensure that young people are able to access financial support Provide support to young people to access National Citizenship service (Early Help) 	<p>Virtual School</p> <p>Early Help and Virtual School</p> <p>Early Help and Virtual School</p> <p>Early Help and Virtual School</p> <p>Post 16 Learning Providers</p> <p>Schools and Learning Provider and social worker</p>	<p>Year 11 / 12 guarantee met</p> <p>t</p> <p>LAC Care Leaver 16-18 NEET (Corporate responsibility) Percentage LAC and Care Leavers remain in learning until their 18th birthday</p> <p>Achievement LAC and Care Leavers Level 2 Level 3 at 19</p>
Support for Looked After Children and Care Leaver's Not in Education Employment or Training aged 16 -21 to re-engage in learning or employment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake one to one careers guidance and action planning in relation to achieving career goals Delivery of evidence based group work programme to support young people to develop self-efficacy and employability skills. Provide sustained support to young people NEET to engage and retain 	<p>Co delivered by Care leaver Service Virtual School and Early Help Service</p> <p>Early Help Service / Care Leaver Service</p> <p>Early Help and Care Leaver Service</p>	<p>16-18 Care leavers / LAC NEET in line with borough average</p> <p>Reduction in NEET care</p>

<p>them in learning or employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broker and support a meaningful work experience for every LAC or care leaver including bespoke work experience through the Council (HR and Schools) • Provide all care leavers with support to prepare for interview and an opportunity undertake mock interviews with the Council or a local employer (Schools). • Guaranteed interviews for care leavers to Council apprenticeships (RMBC) • Work in partnership with Rotherham credit union to develop young people's skills in financial management including allowances, welfare benefits and investments. • Work proactively with Job Centre Plus to provide additional support and mentoring to Care leavers aged 18-21 on JSA support them to secure employment • Identify and advocate tailored employment with learning and apprenticeship vacancies to match the needs of individual unemployed young people 	<p>Care Leaver Service and RMBC Human Resources</p> <p>Care Leaver Service Early Help and RMBC HR</p> <p>RMBC Human Resources</p> <p>Early Help and Care Leaver Service</p> <p>Early Help and Care Leaver Service</p> <p>Early Help and Care Leaver Service</p>	<p>Leavers / LAC aged 18 -21</p>
<p>Support for Looked After Children and Care Leavers Youth work Curriculum -Personal Development Opportunities</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage young people in the LAC Voice and Influence annual peer consultation • Ensure that young people's views are clearly expressed in PEPS and action plans • Support young people to be involved in borough wide youth work offer, the PEER review and young inspectors 	<p>Early Help Service</p> <p>Schools and social workers</p> <p>Performance Team RMBC</p>	