

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Corporate Parenting Panel
2.	Date:	20 th January 2015
3.	Title:	Barnardos Beyond Care Campaign
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report informs members about the Barnardos Beyond Care Campaign for care leavers. The attached documents detail the key questions Barnardos suggest Elected Members should ask about services for care leavers in their area and some of the answers to those questions in Rotherham.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Panel:

6.1 Note the aims of the Barnardos Beyond Care campaign, the questions it raises, and the information provided in the attached reports about provision for care leavers in Rotherham.

6.2 Consider and advise officers of any further information or reporting mechanisms it would like to see implemented.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Beyond Care is the name of Barnardos campaign to improve the accommodation and support given to care leavers across England. They have produced a briefing for Elected Members advising what Members can do to ensure that care leavers can live in safe, appropriate and sustainable housing.

7.2 As the Barnardos briefing attached states:

'Having a safe and secure place to live is a fundamental right that most of us take for granted. Research has shown that having good housing on leaving care leads to better outcomes for young people in other areas of their lives. Young people also say that housing is one of their major concerns when leaving care.'

7.3 The Beyond Care briefing for Councillors is attached to this paper for consideration and information. The paper suggests a number of questions Elected Members should be asking to find out about the quality and level of support and accommodation for care leavers in their area.

7.4 Also attached is a response paper containing answers to the questions in the briefing about support and accommodation for care leavers in Rotherham, for consideration and information.

7.5 In Rotherham we have an in-house Leaving Care Accommodation Service. This service operates two semi-independent units for care leavers aged 16 upwards. Nelson Street provides six beds for care leavers and Hollowgate provides ten beds. In addition the service has access to up to five dispersed properties for the sole use of care leavers, and staff at the two semi independent units provide outreach support to care leavers with their own tenancies.

7.6 In addition, within the Council's Fostering Service, there is a Staying Put/Supported Lodgings co-ordinator with a remit to convert foster carers to Staying Put carers to offer young people in foster care the opportunity to stay living with their foster carer beyond the age of 18, when they would traditionally have had to leave. We currently have 13 young people in Staying Put arrangements with their former foster carers and are looking to develop this initiative further.

7.7 Currently, 96% of Rotherham's care leavers are in suitable accommodation. Details are provided in the attached report about the 4% who are not in suitable accommodation.

8. Finance

8.1 This is an information report. There are no financial implications.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 This is an information report about support and accommodation for care leavers. There are reputational risks for the Council in not providing sufficient support and accommodation for care leavers and not doing so puts the outcomes and future of young people leaving care at risk.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 There is a national performance indicator measuring the percentage of care leavers in 'suitable accommodation'. Rotherham reports performance on this indicator on a quarterly basis to the Corporate Parenting Panel. Current performance is that 96% of care leavers are in suitable accommodation. Further information about the 4% who are not in suitable information can be found in the attached report.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

11.1. See attached papers, Beyond Care and Rotherham's response

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