

3 March 2020		ITEM: 6
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Local Government Association: Support for Care Leavers; Resource Pack for Members, published January 2020		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Sheila Murphy, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Assistant Director: Sheila Murphy, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Health and Housing and Interim Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary:

The Local Government Association (LGA) have produced a resource pack on 'Support for Care Leavers' for Members in their Corporate Parenting role. The resource pack sets out an introduction for Members about care leavers and statutory responsibilities for Council's and Members. The resource pack has a section on Key Lines of Enquiry for all councillors and sets out the issues that Members need to consider when having oversight of services for care leavers. The resource pack has a section on case studies from Local Authorities who have tried different ways of working with their care leavers. The resource pack is a helpful tool for Members in their Corporate Parenting role, to consider what areas of practice relating to care leavers they wish to scrutinise.

1. Recommendation(s) That Corporate Parenting Members:

- 1.1 Consider the Support for Care Leavers resource pack**
- 1.2 Consider which lines of enquiry regarding care leavers, they wish to pursue with Officers**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** The Children and Social Work Act 2017 extended support for care leavers by clarifying in law the role of corporate parents, by giving care leavers access to their personal advisers until the age of 25, and legislation for the publication of care leavers local offers (the Thurrock care leavers local offer has been to Committee previously) to make sure every care leaver knows what help and support they can get.

As corporate parents to care leavers, it's our job to make sure that these young people are ready for what's next, know they're supported as they take those first steps into independence, and to help them access the same opportunities as their peers have – without worrying that if they make a mistake, they won't get another chance.

The Support for Care Leavers resource pack, aims to assist Members in their corporate parenting role for Care Leavers. There is an emphasis on listening to care leavers so we can make sure we are giving care leavers the right support.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The Local Government Association: Support for Care Leavers; Resource Pack is attached at appendix 1.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 For Members to effectively perform their corporate parenting duties towards care leavers they are responsible for.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 Not Applicable

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 No impact.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial:

Implications verified by: **Michelle Hall**
Management Accountant

There are no financial implications to this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsay Marks**
Principal Solicitor Children's Safeguarding

There are no legal implications to this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Community Development Officer

There are no Diversity and Equality implications to this report.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

- None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. Appendices to the report:

- Appendix 1 - The Local Government Association: Support for Care Leavers; Resource Pack

Report Author:

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