

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

OUTCOME OF THE OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT TO NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE IN RELATION TO CARE LEAVERS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update in relation to the outcome of the recent Ofsted Focused Visit to North Lincolnshire in relation to Care Leavers, which was completed in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 16th January 2023, Ofsted announced their intention to complete a Focused Visit within North Lincolnshire in line with the Inspecting Local Authority Children's (ILACS) Framework on the 23rd and 24th January 2024. The scope of this visit was Care Leavers aged 18-25 years with a specific focus on:
- Quality and suitability of accommodation available to care leavers.
 - Support offered to care leavers to prepare them for adulthood - pathway plans/ info to history/ relationships/ info re decisions/ life journey work.
 - Care leavers with specific needs, including care leavers who are parents, in custody and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people.
 - The impact of leaders, including consideration of the recent changes in leaderships
- 2.2 Between the notification on the 16th January and inspectors physically arriving on the 23rd a wealth of data and information in regards our offer for Care Leavers was requested and reviewed by the inspectors. In addition, interviews were held with several leaders.
- 2.3 During the inspection, Inspectors looked at a range of evidence in young people's case records, including pathway plans and case supervision records. Inspectors met with and spoke to care leavers and held case discussions with personal advisers and managers. Inspectors also looked at the organisation's performance management and quality assurance information.

2.4 **Headline Findings**

The overall findings concluded the following –

- Care leavers in North Lincolnshire receive comprehensive and timely support, which helps them to make progress in their lives. They benefit from suitable and stable accommodation and a range of creative interventions that meet their needs, reduce risks and help them to achieve.
- Care leavers have meaningful and trusted relationships with their workers, which endure into adulthood.
- Senior leaders and personal advisers embrace their corporate parenting role and go the extra mile for care leavers, constantly developing services that enhance young people's experiences and result in positive outcomes.
- The quality of young people's relationships with their personal advisors is a real strength within North Lincolnshire
- One care leaver described their adviser as, 'On point. They get things done. They meet my needs and are good at recognising when I need help'.
- Pathway plans are detailed and personalised and created with young people's participation and views.
- Care Leavers receive help to learn skills that promote independent living.
- North Lincolnshire's one family approach features strongly in work with care leavers who are parents or parents to be. Support is offered at different stages of parenthood and helps to alleviate worries care leavers have about parenting. Care Leavers told inspectors that personal advisers have faith in them, and this motivates them to make good decisions for their children and to be the best parents that they can be.
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people receive sensitive support from personal advisers who skilfully adapt their approach and intervention to meet the young people's needs.
- Council Leaders are extremely committed corporate parents and focused on providing the highest quality services to care leavers.
- Personal advisers describe managers and senior leaders as visible and approachable. They say that they enjoy working in the North Lincolnshire care leaver service. One worker said, 'It feels like a big family; we all bring something to our work with young people and we share the learning.'
- Overall, managers in the care leavers' service have a good grip on practice and understand the individual young people's circumstances.

Areas identified for improvement.

Inspectors identified the following as areas for improvement -

- The frequency and recording of personal advisers' supervision, particularly when they joint work young people's cases.
- The recording of management oversight and decision-making in young people's records.

2.5 During the course of the inspection, steps were taken to review the process of supervision where cases are co worked across functions to further strengthen

recording of oversight and decision making. We will continually review the quality of supervision and strengthen this area of practice.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 This report sets out the outcome of the Ofsted Focused Visit in regard to Care Leavers. Cabinet is requested to note the findings of the inspection. Overall, the findings within the inspection demonstrate the effectiveness of our offer for our Care Leavers and the outcomes we are supporting them to achieve, and we would want Cabinet member to note the findings of the Ofsted Inspection.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1 No conflicts of interests declared.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Cabinet welcomes the outcome of the Ofsted Focused Visit to North Lincolnshire in relation to Care Leavers

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – Inspection Letter
Care Leavers Focused Visit