

STRENGTHENING THE COUNCIL'S ROLE AS A CORPORATE PARENT – WRITTEN SUBMISSION

Name: Tom Murphy

Role: Head of Early Intervention Services

SERVICE THAT IS PROVIDED TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN / CARE LEAVERS

In the main, the services outlined in this report are provided to all children, young people and families with some elements targeted at specific needs groups, including looked after children and care leavers.

Early Years and Childcare Services through Council managed Early Years and Children's Centres

The provision of day care and early years foundation stage (EYFS) education for looked after children includes provision through referral, access by foster carers and potential access to services for care leavers who become parents. EYFS areas of learning are:

Prime

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

Specific

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

The provision of activities to support school readiness and health and wellbeing through the provision of Children's Centre activities includes access to universal child development activity such as 'stay and play' and more specific programmes targeted at foster carers covering topics ranging from child development to behaviour management. The provision is integrated; with children and foster parents participating with other children and families.

Youth Work and Youth Support Services

The provision of universal youth work services which supports young people's personal and social development includes open access, centre-based youth provision delivered through young people's centres and specialist programmes ranging from the Duke of Edinburgh Award to Young Leaders' Programmes.

Mobile youth services delivered through a mobile youth project is able to bring provision to particular localities and / or to target work with specific needs groups including young people in care in care homes.

The provision of more specialist youth support services including counselling and sexual health and substance misuse services includes the provision of personal adviser services

to support young people in care and care leavers with information, advice guidance and support to support their ongoing participation in education, employment and training.

Support for young people without a school place.

Key-worker Support Services

A newly developed service which provides children, young people and families with key-work support to overcome particular barriers or issues hindering their progression.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS IN SERVICE

- Promotion of service offer to looked after children and those who support them; and
- Consistent partnership working to support and enable young people in care and care leavers to fully access the service offer.

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

Through Early Years and Childcare Services:

- Learning outcomes relating to the previously mentioned learning areas;
- Early access to education promoting solid foundations school readiness and for future learning;
- Educating and advising foster carers on a range of issues ranging from food and nutrition to child development;
- School readiness outcomes achieved.

Through Youth Work and Youth Support Services:

- The acquisition of personal and social skills ranging from independent living skills to job readiness through youth work;
- Access to and sustained engagement in education, employment and training. As of March 2013 36 young people in care or care leavers were in receipt of youth adviser support;
- The Young People's Education and Skills Team secured education placements for 78 Year 11 students who started in September 2012, of which the number of Looked After Children was 18.
- The acquisition of skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours to negotiate risk and / or avoid risk related behaviour.