

Improving Outcomes for Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training	
Recommendations	Updates
<p>RECOMMENDATION 1 – That Council welcomes the Government’s commitment to collecting data on care leavers at ages 18, 20 and 21, in addition to age 19 and commits to assessing this data as a means through which to monitor and improve the impact of the Council’s support of care leavers.</p>	<p>The data that has been collected within the borough to date has been for care leavers NEET in the Borough and collected when a young person who was in care on his/her 16th birthday is contacted and asked about their status after turning 19. Consequently, it is clear that this data does not provide up-to-date or complete figures for care leavers NEET across the full age range of 18-21.</p> <p>In recognition of this gap, the Government’s Care Leaver Strategy states that, as of 2014, the Department for Education, Ministry of Justice and Department for Work & Pensions would be collecting data on care leavers at 18, 19, 20 and 21.</p> <p>Therefore- the officers will be committing to collecting data by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual consultation and collection of information regarding 18 – 25 year olds (currently on-going for 2014/15 figures). • Consultation with ICS to ensure management information can be collected on NEET, education and employment status of our care leavers up to 25 years. <p>This recommendation will also be addressed in the Service Improvement Plan.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 2 – That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children Services requests that officers explore the viability of the Hillingdon Virtual School identifying the LAC most ‘at risk’ of becoming NEET and passing this information on to the relevant social workers, personal advisors and officers in Children’s Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School maintains list of LAC most "at risk" of becoming NEET • Strategies to maintain in EET discussed during VS supervision • Monthly meeting between Social Care, Early Intervention, Virtual School and Corporate Parenting being put in place to a) prevent LAC becoming NEET and b) to put in place strategies to support those who are NEET back into EET • Work on NEET prevention will be fed into the Education Sub-Group which reports to the CP Board

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 3 – To ensure that LAC and care leavers benefit from the full range of services and support provided by the Council, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children’s Services requests that officers explore new ways of sharing information between frontline staff and other Council departments and report findings back to the Cabinet Member in due course.</p>	<p>Messages are cascaded to staff and professionals by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday and Monday Briefings’ across the service (Invites to other services). • Quarterly Health meetings. • A mentor to assist and support staff to implement practice and statutory updates. • Regular Briefings by the DCS Service wide. • Horizon (Council Website) • Trix has been updated • Practice Manuals
<p>RECOMMENDATION 4 – To ensure that LAC benefit from the full range of support offered by external organisations within the Borough, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children’s Services requests that officers undertake research on the full range of externally provided services / opportunities that are aimed at, or could be used by, LAC and care leavers.</p>	<p>This is outstanding.</p>

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RECOMMENDATION 5 – Subject to recommendation 4, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children’s Services requests that officers explore improvements to methods of communication between frontline staff and the Borough’s charitable, educational and business organisations and report findings back to the Cabinet Member in due course.	On-going regular communication between VS frontline staff and educational organisations takes place through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face meetings during PEPs at least once per term • Regular electronic communication in monitoring PEP Action Plans, including through newly introduced ePEP • The training of designated teachers and other school staff by the VS • VSH membership of the Hillingdon Association of Head Teachers
RECOMMENDATION 6 – To expand upon the opportunities available to this vulnerable group of young people, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children’s Services encourages Members and Council departments to consider where they might be able to provide work experience opportunities specifically to LAC and care leavers;	Both the Participation and the Care Leavers Corporate Parenting Sub groups, in consultation with Children’s Rights and Participation Services and the Young People’s Team, are looking at different aspects of promoting work experience, apprenticeships and training and work opportunities for Care Leavers.
RECOMMENDATION 7 – To ensure that care leavers who are undertaking part-time courses to develop skills are not obliged to withdraw, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children’s Services requests that officers monitor the implications of the Welfare Reform on care leavers and, where necessary, put measures in place to ensure that these risks are mitigated;	Regular meetings between the Uxbridge Job Centre and Social Care to look at bridging the gaps for Care leavers before October 2015. This recommendation is a working progress and it is envisioned that there will be a policy between the Job Centre and Social Care prior to October 2015.

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 8 – In order to provide opportunities for education providers in the Borough to share best practice, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children’s Services considers whether officers should facilitate meetings between schools and Higher and Further Education providers; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSH aware that provision is provided through Brunel Widening Participation Officer, who is working with all primary and secondary schools and offering a programme of learning, motivational and aspiration-raising activities to schools across the borough from primary to sixth form. In addition, ACCESS HE is available for schools wishing to work with HE other than Brunel • Specific activities set up by Brunel for Hillingdon LAC, including 2-day residential during summer term.
<p>RECOMMENDATION 9 – That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services considers whether the issue of engaging with the Borough's schools to offer support to LAC from as early an age as possible, be referred to the Corporate Parenting Board for further consideration and progression.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VS engages with Borough's school as soon as a child becomes LAC and initial face to face PEP meeting held within 10 working days • Support and intervention plans integral part of every PEP from EYFS to age 18 • Pupil Premium Plus specifically used for each individual LAC to support progress according to need • Designated Teachers attend LAC Reviews with LA officers • DTs and other school staff trained in matters relating to LAC