

Report of the Chief Executive

CARE LEAVERS INTERVIEW SCHEME

1. Purpose of report

To consider the INTRODUCTION of a Care Leavers Interview Scheme.

2. Detail

The scheme guarantees interviews to Care Leavers who meet the essential criteria of an advertised position's person specification. According to the Learning and Work Institute, evidence shows that young people who have been in care do not have the same life chances as other young people, and as a Local Government employer, the Council can support these young people by breaking down employment barriers and implementing supportive employment policies.

This scheme should be read in conjunction with the Council's existing Recruitment and Selection Policy.

3. Statistics

On 31 March 2020, National Statistics indicate 80,080 children were in some kind of 'looked-after' social care, and 29,950 children were ceasing to be looked after from that date also.

Activity of former care leavers

For 17-year olds - there were 480 care leavers in 2020 - 59% were male and 41% were female. Of these young people:

- 37% were in education
- 12% in training or employment
- 27% were known to be not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- but information was not known for 24%

For 18-year olds - there were 11,220 care leavers in 2020 - 64% were male and 36% were female. Of these young people:

- 48% were in education,
- 17% in training or employment
- 31% were NEET
- information was not known for 5%

For 19- to 21- year olds - there were 31,260 care leavers in 2020 - 61% were male and 39% were female. Of these young people:

- 6% were known to be in higher education
- 20% were in other education
- 26% were in training or employment
- 39% were NEET, compared to around 13% of all young people aged 19 to 21 years
- information was not known for 9%

Sources:

<https://www.hopinto.co.uk/media/1070/employers-guide-to-supporting-care-leavers.pdf>

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions/2020>

Recommendation

The Local Joint Consultative Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Personnel Committee the introduction of a Care Leavers Interview Scheme be approved.

Background papers

Nil