

THE LEARNING OFFER FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

A close-up photograph of a welder wearing a silver protective helmet and yellow gloves, working on a metal structure. Bright blue and white sparks are flying from the welding point. The background is dark and industrial.

INTRODUCTION

Children's Services vision is 'Working creatively together to inspire and empower children, young people and their families and communities to be the best they can be; safe, healthy, happy, learning and working'.

Work with Care Leavers is underpinned by the 100% EET Strategy for Care Leavers and Children in Care launched in June 2015. This sets the aspiration that we, as Corporate Parents, have to ensure there are multiple opportunities to meet young people's needs in relation to moving into the world of work.

This leaflet provides information about specialist support and opportunities for our Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The Virtual School

The Virtual School aims to enhance the life opportunities for children in care by supporting their education and enabling them to achieve the best they can, offering:

- Pre 16 support
- Support for Personal Education and Training Plans (PETPs) for students in School, FE and HE
- Support for Post 16 Engagement
- Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

The Virtual School 6th Form is developing its creative mentoring programme to use creative arts projects to support young people. The priority is support for young people (NEET) aged 16 -18 with wider participation up to age 25; engaging them in projects to support social emotional wellbeing, enterprise skills and work readiness.

Multi Agency Teams

- Personal Advisers

MAT PAs work with children in care and care leavers from year 9 up to the age of 18, providing Information, Advice and Guidance, supporting young people to overcome barriers to participation in learning and progression.

- Youth Workers

MAT Youth Workers can provide tailor made youth activities to support children in care and care leavers.



Derbyshire Traded Careers Service

Provide tailored career packages and bespoke services delivered by qualified and quality assured careers advisers. Our services fulfil school's statutory duty for securing careers guidance for pupils in year 9 – 13 that improve pupils' chances of successful and sustained progressions to appropriate learning pathways and employment. We support schools careers education curriculum, contributing to pupils' effective planning from years 9 -13.

Children in Care are identified to ensure they receive support which can range from 1:1 interviews on career choices through to CV writing, interview skills, parents' evenings and careers days. The service also includes support for tracking and follow-up of year 11, 12 and 13 leavers to support schools' responsibilities regarding destinations.

National Careers Service for Adults (NCS)

The Adult Careers Team work with 18+ care leavers offering a variety of impartial careers Information, Advice and Guidance. A typical session can include face to face advice in a range of locations within local communities.

The service provides detailed sector by sector Labour Market Information to discover which industries are growing in the Derbyshire area.

NCS can help:

- To open tools such as CV builder and Skills Health Check, provided to help identify skills, strengths and gaps
- Open a Lifelong Learning Account, which gives clear information and advice on skills and career in a single, personalised online space
- CV writing, interview skills, access to the internet for job seeking activities together with information on volunteering opportunities and advice on courses and learning.

Barnardo's

Derbyshire County Council commissions Barnardo's to provide the after care service to 18-21 year old care leavers in Derbyshire.

Barnardo's role includes:

- Developing, monitoring and renewing each young person's Pathway Plan which details future aspirations
- Supporting aspiration review
- Working with CLEP, MAT PAs, Job Centre Plus and other partners
- Supporting applications for Employment, Education and Training.

Care Leavers' Employment Project (CLEP)

The primary objective of CLEP is to secure employment, education and training for young people leaving care, with particular emphasis on the 19 – 21 year old age group. The offer from CLEP is to offer intensive support to young people to gain training and employment.

As part of this support CLEP offers:

- A tailored work experience placement within DCC
- Supported Internship placements within DCC for up to 1 year
- Supported Apprenticeship placements with small/medium providers in the voluntary and private sector
- Bespoke traineeship programmes
- Liaison with employers and VCI providers to create further opportunities
- Financial help with driving lessons, links to the Wheels to Work scheme and one off grants for workwear, equipment and tools.

Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES)

16 - 19 Full Time Study Programme

This is 540 guided learning hours per year built around a programme to meet individual learner's needs. This includes a main vocational qualification, employability skills and confidence building. English, Maths and IT are included, as are enrichment activities to enhance social integration; work experience and social/personal development.

16-19 Part Time Study Programme

This offers learners a flexible start in learning and through the 'Making Choices' initial assessment course it identifies Maths, English, ICT and employability aspirations. Learners can infill into existing adult and young people's classes, to develop their core skills, supported by a learning mentor. They can access other qualification and non-qualification provision on offer from DACES and take part in enrichment and employability activities.

Traineeships Programme

This offers an education and training programme with work experience. The programme can last between six weeks and six months with at least 100 hours work experience. All young people undertaking a traineeship are required to study English and Maths. Traineeships are available for young people 16 to 24 qualified below a full Level 3. Mentors support young people on their learning programmes.



Apprenticeships with DCC

DCC apprenticeship opportunities are accessed by application process only. Children in Care/Care Leavers who apply for these apprenticeships are guaranteed an interview unless there are any nationally defined essential entry criteria which they currently cannot meet e.g. minimum age or specific qualifications.



DCC Volunteer Passport Scheme

The Derbyshire Volunteer Passport Scheme is a short training course that covers key skills you need to volunteer. Each session is led by experienced and fully qualified tutors. When you have finished training you will be awarded a Level 1, NCFE Certificate, Investors in Quality and a Volunteer Passport photo ID badge.

Children's Services - Services for Teenagers

Services for Teenagers lead on the Strategic Action Plan to increase the number of Children in Care and Care Leavers in EET. Working in partnership is valuable and has enabled the offer to Care Leavers to be extended. These partnerships have been both internally within the County Council as well as externally with private, voluntary and independent sectors. This multi-agency working has facilitated innovative practice, with young people being involved in the co-production and co-design of services.

For more information go to Derbyshire YOUTHINC website.
<https://derbyshireyouthinc.com>

Disability Employment Service

The Disability Employment Service is based within Derbyshire County Council. We support disabled people to find training, work experience, voluntary work and paid employment. We work with anyone aged 16+ who have either a disability or long term health condition.

Getting into work

Many young disabled people want to go to work, but may feel there is no support for them. The service can help them with work experience, training, voluntary work that could lead to paid work, looking for jobs, applying for jobs, mock Interviews, support at interviews and in work support.

Staying in work

After securing work some individuals may require some support, this could be anything from looking at working times, a change of job role, new managers/team members etc. The Disability Employment Service can help with this by working alongside you to address your concerns and support you to talk to your employer if necessary.

The Voice of Young People

Listening to our Children in Care and Care Leavers is key to ensuring that, as Corporate Parents, the voice of young people helps to shape service developments.

Our CIC have a say through the Children in Care Council and Big Conversation.

Our Care Leavers are routinely involved in the recruitment of staff and volunteers, and commissioning process. They are also involved with the service user panel for accommodation providers. Care Leavers sit on the Virtual School and Internship Governance Groups and periodically attend the Corporate Parenting Committee.

A Care Leavers Council is in the process of being set up and work is currently underway to get care leavers involved in the training of social workers via the DCC partnership with D2N2.

Chief Officer Pledges

Since 2015 Council Departments have pledged opportunities like work tasters and work experience to provide Care Leavers with the opportunity to experience the world of work and develop their employability skills in a supported environment. This process is currently being refreshed to try to increase the number of opportunities available.

Chief Officer Allocations

The future life-chances of our Care Leavers are dramatically improved if they can be supported to move into education, employment or training. We recognise that young people within the care system are often at a disadvantage having a poor start, and require assistance to catch up and maintain progress. We have, therefore, developed a scheme whereby the Council's four Service Directors take on a role to advocate, champion and challenge on behalf of, and enable Care Leavers to more easily access a range of EET opportunities.

The Money House

This project aims to help young people between the ages of 17- 24 and are living in Derbyshire, learn how to improve their financial management and understand how to prioritise spending related to housing costs. It is a 4-day course, informal and friendly. The course includes budgeting, bills, banking, borrowing, bureaucracy, benefits. It takes place in a real flat in Newbold, Chesterfield. It is ideally for a young person who is close to making the move from care or supported accommodation to their own flat where they will be expected to manage their own finances.

Building Better Opportunities

The Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme is running until September 2019 and aims to tackle poverty, promote social inclusion, and remove barriers to employment.

BBO has 3 stands:

Money Sorted - Financial Management and Inclusion Support. Outcomes are to gain financial stability and management, training and job search.

Opportunity and Change - Support to overcome multiple and complex needs (such as substance misuse, ex or offending behaviour, domestic violence, mental health). Outcomes are to overcome these multiple and complex needs/barriers.

Towards Work - For individuals furthest away from the labour market (can include mental health, disabilities and complex needs) to support participants to gain training or employment.

The Towards Work strand is most relevant to individuals who are NEET or at risk of being NEET. The strand offers between 12-18 months of bespoke 1:1 support for an individual. An assessment is carried out to review barriers faced and an action plan put in place to establish ways to overcome these barriers.

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CLEP/Chief Officer Pledges and Allocations

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The Voice of Young People - DCC

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Services for Teenagers

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