
Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board - 18th April 2024

Care Experienced Apprenticeships

Purpose

1. This report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an update report that outlines the activity of the service, in relation to supporting our Care Experienced young people in securing employment opportunities and work experience within the council.

Recommendation

2. The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:
 - Utilise this report to consider the work with our Care Experienced Young People, and the support to meet their employment aspirations.

Background

3. In September 2021, 6 Care Experienced apprentices started their programme studying for a Customer Service qualification within placements in Children's Social Care Teams. To learn from the experience of having a group of apprentices within the Children's Directorate, the PSW met with all employees who had been identified as Line Managers for the apprentices as well as the Service Manager for Children in Care and Care Leavers to carry out semi-structured interviews to hear their experiences of the programme and identify the positive outcomes, difficulties encountered and potential solutions/arrangements for future programmes.

The summary of this evaluation concluded that the programme has been embraced by the team, services, Senior Managers and the wider council across the board; the contribution the apprentices have made had been welcomed and it has been noted on a number of occasions that the group brought a positive energy to the workplace. Whilst this



report highlighted the conflicts of having the apprentices based within Social Care, there were also many benefits.

It is clear that the Local Authority is committed to provided ongoing opportunities for our Care Experienced young people to obtain work experience and undertake apprenticeship programmes. It was agreed at DLT that a project group would be established to ensure the framework for having apprentice appointments across the council was in place.

Finance

4. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Law

5. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

Risk Management

6. There are no risks directly arising from the report.

Equality Impact

7. The report recognises issues of equality for Children who are in our care and the recognition of 'care experienced' as a protected characteristic.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

8. There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

Commercial/Procurement

9. There is no impact to trade or procurement arising from this report.

Environment/Climate Change

10. Dudley Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is committed to work to address Climate Change and achieve the Net Zero target.

Council Projects and Priorities

11. The contents of the report relate to the key council priorities outlined within the Children's Services directorate plan.



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Appendices - Power point presentation

Report title	Apprenticeships for Care Experienced Young People
Originating service	Safeguarding and Review
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