

Open Report on behalf of Barnardo's

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	23 July 2020
Subject:	Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2019/20 (April 2019 to March 2020)

Summary:

This report is the annual report relating to the work undertaken on behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service by Barnardo's. The purpose of this report is to demonstrate the performance of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service in regard to care leavers (18-25 years old).

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to review the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service Annual Report and performance of the Leaving Care Service and highlight any recommendations for future consideration.

1. Background

This is the annual Corporate Parenting Report to demonstrate the performance of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service in regard to care leavers (18-25 years old). Areas covered within this report include:

- A. Accessing and maintaining suitable, safe accommodation
- B. Accessing and maintaining appropriate Education Employment and Training opportunities
- C. Compliments and Complaints
- D. Lincolnshire Leaving Care Contract

For the purposes of this annual report Lincolnshire County Council's Leaving Care Service is currently delivered by Barnardo's. The contract specification (up to the 31st March 2020) was to deliver a Statutory Leaving Care Service for young people aged 18-25. The new contract issued on the 1st April 2020 saw the service extended and for Leaving Care Workers to start working with Looked after Children aged 16 and above. The contract is closely monitored via monthly contract monitoring meetings which are attended by the Contract Monitoring Officer, the Corporate Parenting Manager and one of the Children's Services Managers (with lead responsibility for Looked after Children and Care Leavers)

Data contained within this report covers a twelve month period from April 2019 – March 2020.

Children’s Social Care Return

The SSDA903 statistical return cohort referred to in this report as the ‘Children’s Social Care Return’ relates to an identified group of young people who were looked after by the local authority and have recently left care, information on their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday is collected annually between the 01 April and the 31 March. The base figure changes annually. The data below covers a twelve month period with differing base figures. Over the past twelve months Barnardo’s have only reported on the 18-21 co-horts and excluded the 17 group in agreement with Commissioning.

Accessing and maintaining suitable, safe Accommodation

CSC Return - Accommodation - Total Return for all Young People											
Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
313	322	323	329	329	338	348	355	358	362	363	362
94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	94%	95%	95%	95%	96%	96%	96%

Accommodation - Open Allocated Young People											
Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
337	343	337	341	340	346	349	356	357	356	362	353
94%	96%	96%	96%	96%	95%	96%	95%	96%	95%	96%	96%

Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service offered advice, support and assistance in relation to accommodation options for the over 18’s. As a service we aim to share information in relation to housing options available both within County but also where the young person is currently residing. Within service we have a specialist post holder who specializes in housing provision for Care Leavers and we also have the Leaving Care Workers and Team Managers who have knowledge on services available to young people.

As a matter of routine the Accommodation Worker supports young people at age 18 to register for social housing.

In consequence, by the time a young person is suitably prepared to bid on properties, they have completed all the necessary paperwork, navigated through the local bureaucracy, worked with supported housing providers to practice their tenancy sustainment skills and are ready and waiting to take on and maintain a tenancy.

Within Barnardo’s we continue to work with the Corporate Parenting Manager who has lead responsibility for the Council in relation to housing options for Care Leavers.

We have developed some good links with District Council Housing Teams and the Corporate Parenting Manager continues to offer the District Councils advice, support and assistance in relation to developing the housing offer for Care Leavers.

Barnardo’s Supported Lodgings Scheme

Barnardo’s has completed a review of Lincolnshire Supported Lodgings Scheme to ensure it remains a flexible and viable option for a number of young people transitioning into adulthood. We have developed some new assessment criteria and all new forms have been reviewed by one of our Care Leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Manager sees this type of accommodation as another housing option for Looked after Children and Care Leavers across Lincolnshire.

This scheme gives young people the opportunity to develop independence skills whilst living in a home environment. Advice and guidance is offered in relation to cooking, undertaking household tasks and maintaining education / employment. We have had some excellent outcomes for a number of young people who have accessed this scheme.

Young people live with providers as lodgers – paying rent and a contribution towards utilities and food. Children’s Services pay a support fee dependent upon the level of support required, housing benefit /universal credit is also claimed (where appropriate).

The scheme caters for Care Leavers - Looked after Children over 16 and 16/17 year olds who are homeless and require an ‘assessment bed’

Between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 the team received 52 referrals, carefully matched with 23 providers

Legal profile of Young People referred from 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020	
Legal status	Number
Section 31 Looked After Child	10
Section 20 Looked after Child	11
Homeless 16/17 child	18
Section 24 Care Leaver	11
Section 23	1
Sec 7 – Guardianship Order	1
Total	52
Number of Placements	35

On 31st March 2020 there were 21 Supported Lodgings Providers offering 31 Supported Lodgings Placements.

Barnardo's are currently progressing the recommendations from the independent review, the assessment procedure has been changed, panel membership is currently under review and we are looking to identify a care experienced young person to sit on the panel.

Accessing and maintaining appropriate Education Employment and Training opportunities

CSC Return - EET - Total Return for all Young People											
Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
211	219	216	212	208	213	221	239	243	242	241	239
63%	65%	64%	61%	60%	59%	60%	64%	65%	64%	64%	63%

EET - Open Allocated Young People											
Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
230	235	226	221	219	223	231	251	257	254	259	254
64%	66%	64%	62%	62%	61%	63%	67%	69%	68%	69%	69%

During the last financial year Leaving Care Workers continued to help young people access career advice information and guidance through the universal routes via colleges and when relevant, universities.

Before leaving care young people have access to teachers from the Virtual School. The Virtual School team developed a part time post to work with Lincolnshire Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people who are living in Cambridgeshire to explore training opportunities for this co-hort.

Barnardo's have a common mission of ***'Increasing Aspiration and Outcomes for Looked after Children and Care leavers'***.

The Care Leavers Apprenticeship Scheme and the Work Preparation and Work Experience Scheme continue to offer Lincolnshire Care Leavers a pathway into work and financial self-sufficiency.

Within Barnardo's we continue to have two specialist workers who work solely with education and employment providers to explore opportunities for your Care Leavers.

At the beginning of 2020 we started negotiations with Siemens who provide a number of job opportunities across the region. Siemens want to develop a coaching / mentorship/ work experience programme for Lincolnshire Care Leavers. Both the Service Manager and Corporate Parenting Manager have been involved of this development.

Snapshot taken in March 2020 of young people in EET (Education, Employment and Training)

Personal Circumstances March 2020	Number in EET	%
Care Leavers in Barnardo's Supported Lodgings	14	93%
Care Leavers who entered care as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	73	85%
Care Leavers unsuitably housed	4	25%
Care Leavers in custody	1	14%

Compliments and Complaints

Number and % of complaints received and resolved within agreed timescale of 14 days

Complaints Received/Resolved - 2019-20												
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Month	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
Number	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
% Resolved	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A
Running Total	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2

Number of compliments received – cumulative

Compliments - 2019-20												
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Month	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
Number	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Running Total	0	0	1	1	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5

Success Stories

May 2019 – CEO Awards

From: Lynn Perry
Sent: 29 July 2019 15:24
To: Lisa Adams

Subject: CEO Award Runner-up

Dear Lisa

I just wanted send you my congratulations to you and the team for being awarded runner-up for the May CEO Awards. This is an excellent achievement!

Thank you for the brilliant work you and the team are undertaking at the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service. The dedication of the staff team in delivering and achieving the best possible outcomes for children and young people is amazing and the efforts are appreciated.

*Lynn Perry MBE
Corporate Director Children's Services Operations (Interim)*

Media Release

ABOUT BARNARDO'S LINCOLNSHIRE SUPPORTED LODGINGS

The Barnardo's Lincolnshire Supported Lodgings scheme is a dedicated team that supports 16-21-year-olds (25 if in full time education) who are leaving the care system.

It aims to find a caring and supportive home that will ease their journey through to adulthood. It is not just about finding young people a roof over their head. It's about providing a home environment where young care leavers can flourish - with the guidance and supportive extra care that goes with it.

Barnardo's want to recruit supported lodging providers – ordinary people who open up their homes and their lives to provide extraordinary support and mentoring that many of us may take for granted. Providers are different ages and from all backgrounds - some are single, others married, some with children, others not. But all have one thing in common – they have a spare bedroom to offer a young person leaving care and compassion to help turn around a teenager's life and support them to develop the skills they will need to live in a less supported environment.

Once providers are approved by an independent panel they are then matched to a suitable young person. Meetings and weekend overnight stays are arranged before a young person moves in. A small weekly fee is paid and training and on-going support are given. If you would like more information on becoming a Supported Lodgings Provider in Lincolnshire, please email: SupportedLodgingsLincolnshire@barnardos.org.uk or phone 01522 575955

A Level Results – August 2019

Looked After Status	Results	Next steps
Turned 18 on August 2019	Business - Chemistry -	Confirmed place to study Business and Finance at Sheffield Hallam.
Left care September 2018	Sociology - B Psychology - C Government and Politics - C	Unconditional offer to study Law at Nottingham Trent University
Left care March 2019	Business – A History – A Psychology – B Spanish - B	Confirmed place to study History at Nottingham University
Left care June 2019	Business BTEC—Pass Finance— C History— E	Confirmed place at Bristol University for Land based Business Studies

My Experience of CLAS by C (Care Leavers Apprenticeship Scheme)

The care leaver's apprenticeship scheme is amazing step up for care leavers who want to learn new skills and get a qualification but get paid at the same time.

Before I came onto the apprenticeship scheme I was working part time at Primark and it wasn't what I wanted to continue doing so after talking to my leaving care worker, I was put in contacted with Sue Unwin (Barnardo's) to discuss the idea of doing some work experience at the Youth Hub based at Myles Cross. I thought it was a great idea and it would be really beneficial for me so a meeting was arranged for me and Sue to go meet the manager at the Youth Hub to discuss what hours I'd like to do and the type of work I'd be doing if I chose to do the 13 week work experience programme before looking at the possibility of going onto the care leavers apprenticeship scheme once I'd finished the work experience there.

I thoroughly enjoyed the work experience and I got plenty of support and guidance throughout my time there. Not long before my 21st birthday, I'd been at the Youth Hub a few weeks and the tasks I was doing there were enjoyable and I was happy that I was learning new skills so when Helen came to see me for my weekly review we discussed the idea of looking for a place in the Council for me to do the apprenticeship but at the time I didn't have my photographic I.D so a discussion was had with my leaving care worker and her manager about the possibility of the leaving care service paying for my I.D so I could go onto the apprenticeship scheme, this was arranged I was able to get my provisional driving license. This enabled me to then go onto the apprenticeship scheme. I finished my work

experience and while continuing it I had plenty of support and guidance from both Sue Unwin and Helen Tomlinson (Barnardo's) while finishing it.

Once I finished my work experience I met my manager at the Council where I would be doing my 13 month Business Administration Apprenticeship. During my apprenticeship I got plenty of support from Helen, if I was struggling with a task for a unit of work or I was worried about anything I always knew she was at the end of the phone or an email to help me with whatever I was stuck on or was there to sign post me to someone or somewhere else that would help me with whatever the problem was.

During my apprenticeship I continued to get support from my leaving care worker who had face to face catch up with me and was at the end of a phone for a chat if I was struggling either at work or at home. I feel the apprenticeship has helped me to grow and develop as a person and I have gained lots of new skills, experience and another qualification. I am so pleased I went onto the Care Leavers apprenticeship scheme and think it is a great opportunity for care leavers to get another qualification while earning a wage at the same time.

Email from Young Person re CLAS

From: B

Sent: 29 August 2019

To: Helen Tomlinson

Good morning Helen,

Barnardo's has helped me by giving me a great opportunity that I wouldn't have been able to get on my own. Not only have they have helped me get a job, they have also given me advice with future jobs.

Barnardos have helped me by sorting out personal things. – B

Kind regards,

B

Business Support Apprentice

Transcript of Telephone Conversation (September 2019) with a Young Lady who received Support via the CLAS

She was 17 when we first met (CLAS Worker) and she's almost 29 now. She was on CLAS (teaching assistant) then I got her one of the supported LCC places on a social work degree. She really struggled, had an accident and put 8 stone on. Her birth Mum died and her long term relationship ended. She updates me about her life every 3 or 4 years.

Today she rang to tell me she has a job as a teaching assistant. They literally just offered her it and she wanted me to know. She said she told them all about me at interview and that I inspired her to keep going etc. She's off all her medication, been in a steady relationship for 5 years and has lost 5 stones. The school are

starting her on 16 hours so she can keep her benefits and when she's ready they're going to move her to full time.

to
Melen

Thank-you for all your support
through out my apprenticeship.
You gave me the courage and
motivation not to give up.
The advice has helped me and
I feel more positive about
lots of things now. I hope to
see you at Graduation on 25th
November and if you ever need
any support with work prep
courses or giving advice to care
leavers don't hesitate to call me.

Many Thanks
charlette

2. Conclusion

This report demonstrates some of the work undertaken by Barnardo's on behalf of the Local Authority between April 2019 – March 2020. This was the final year of a 5 year contract to deliver services for Lincolnshire Care Leavers.

Barnardo's look forward to expanding the current service and delivering services for Looked after Children and Care Leavers aged 16-25.

The staffing establishment has increased moving into the new contract and the following staffing establishment is in place from April 2020:

- 1 Service Manager
- 4.2 FTE Team Managers
- 1 Business Manager
- 6.1 FTE Administrators
- 1 Project Worker 3 – Specialising in Signs of Safety / Participation and Quality Assurance
- 1 Specialist Accommodation Worker
- 2 Supported Lodgings Workers
- 2 Education, Employment and Training Specialist Workers
- 24 FTE Leaving Care Workers

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Lisa Adams, who can be contacted on 01522 575955 or lisa.adams@barnardos.org.uk