

## Cabinet

10 May 2018

### The Local Offer for Care Leavers

#### Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes and endorses the corporate parenting principles.
- 2) Authorises the Strategic Director for People to publish a Local Offer for Care Leavers and for that offer to be regularly reviewed and updated subject to the Joint Managing Director (Resources) being satisfied that all statutory requirements are met and that the offer can be delivered within the available financial resources.

#### 1. Key Issues

- 1.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a set of corporate parenting principles which the Council must have regard to when carrying out its functions in relation to looked after children or care leavers up to age 25 years. The Act also extends the level of advice and support available to Care Leavers up to age 25. This includes provision of personal advisors, assessment of needs and preparation of a Pathway Plan. There is a small amount of additional resource from central government to meet the additional duties. The initial allocation for Warwickshire is £33,000 which will increase by a small amount next year. The new duty does not require local authorities to provide the same level of support to care leavers aged 21 to 25 as it does for those aged 18-20. It does, however, require local authorities to respond positively to requests for support from care leavers aged 21-25 who are not in further or higher education and who may be struggling with the transition to independence.
- 1.2 The Act also introduced a Local Offer for Care Leavers which requires the Council to publish information about the services it provides that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and well-being; relationships; education and training; employment; accommodation; and participation in society. The

Department for Education provided an example Local Offer to illustrate the kind of support a local authority may include in their offer to care leavers. This included a combination of statutory entitlements and services which county councils, district and borough councils and partner agencies can provide.

- 1.3 The report shows the total number of care leavers has grown by 48% since 2010. In addition the report predicts that the number of care leavers is likely to grow between 12% - 29% over the next five years. It is estimated that by 2023 there will be between 600 to 690 care leavers in Warwickshire. This report sets out the proposed local offer for Warwickshire which has been developed in consultation with Care Leavers. The Corporate Parenting Panel also considered and commented upon the Care Leaver Offer on 5th April 2018. The proposed Warwickshire Local Offer is based on the services we already have in place and looks to build on and strengthen these further, ensuring better outcomes for Care Leavers. Section 5 of this report contains details of the improved offer for care leavers.
- 1.4 The increase in costs to implement the Care Leaver Offer will be met by the existing Children & Families budget, assisted by the non-specific additional funding agreed by Council and the additional money received from the government. The total additional costs for the County Council will be £102,200 per annum based on the current numbers of care leavers. As the number of care leavers increases, the annual cost is likely to grow and will need to be met within budgets. It is recommended that the annual cost is monitored and the local offer is reviewed with future years' financial constraints being a factor in the reviews.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the new requirements under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and on the progress made since the Ofsted inspection with regard to care leavers.
- 2.2 The report also seeks Cabinet's agreement to publish the Local Offer for Care Leavers in accordance with the regulations.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The term care leavers relates to:
  - **eligible children** (those aged 16 or 17 who have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and continue to be so);
  - **relevant children** (those aged 16 or 17 who have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who have left care);

- **former relevant children** (those aged between 18 and 25 who were previously eligible or relevant); and
- **qualifying children** (those aged under 25 who stopped being looked after or accommodated after the age of 16).

3.2 In Warwickshire, at the end of February 2018 there were a total of 533 care leavers. This consisted of 323 former relevant, 203 eligible, 7 relevant and 0 qualifying children. Appendix A provides more detailed information regarding the number of care leavers in Warwickshire over the last eight years. The report shows the total number of care leavers has grown by 48% since 2010. In addition the report predicts that the number of care leavers is likely to grow between 12% - 29% over the next five years. It is estimated that by 2023 there will be between 600 to 690 care leavers in Warwickshire.

## **The Children and Social Work Act 2017**

3.3 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a set of corporate parenting principles. In accordance with these principles, a local authority, when carrying out its functions in relation to children who are looked after by a local authority or persons aged under 25 who were previously looked after, must have regard to the need:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

These principles apply to county councils, district and borough councils and combined authorities. Our updated Pledge for Care Leavers was agreed at the full Council meeting on the 21st September 2017 and is underpinned by these principles.

3.4 Additionally, the Act extends local authority support to Care Leavers to

age 25, including provision of Personal Advisors, assessment of the needs of former relevant children and preparation of a Pathway Plan.

- 3.5 There is a small amount of additional resource from central government to meet the additional duties to provide advice and support, a personal advisor and a pathway plan to all care leavers up to the age of 25. The initial allocation for Warwickshire is £33,000 which will increase by a small amount in 2019/2020. The new duty does not require local authorities to provide the same level of support to care leavers aged 21 to 25 as it does for those aged 18-20. It does, however, require local authorities to respond positively to requests for support from care leavers aged 21-25 who are not in further or higher education and who may be struggling with the transition to independence. This approach recognises care leavers' growing stability and maturity between age 21 and 25, during which time some care leavers are able to lead successful lives without personal advisor support and may not want continuing contact with their local authority.
- 3.6 The Act also introduced a Local Offer for Care Leavers through which a local authority is required to publish information about services which the local authority offers for care leavers as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989 and other services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and well-being, relationships, education and training, employment, accommodation, and participation in society.
- 3.7 Before publishing its local offer for care leavers a local authority must consult persons it deems relevant (such as professionals in education, health, housing, etc.) about which of the services offered by the local authority may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. A local authority must update its local offer for care leavers from time to time.
- 3.8 The Corporate Parenting Panel considered and commented upon the Care Leaver Offer on 5th April 2018.

### **Ofsted Inspection (2nd May – 25th May 2017)**

- 3.9 During the Ofsted inspection of Warwickshire children's services in May 2017, the experience and progress of care leavers was judged to require improvement. Ofsted identified many strengths, including how well we know our young people; how safe and well they feel; how well we plan for transition of children and young people with special educational needs

and disabilities; how hard and effectively staff work to maintain good-quality contact with young people; the work to ensure that appropriate housing solutions and specialist services are commissioned in a timely way.

3.10 However, Ofsted also identified a number of areas for improvement or further development, as listed below:

- not all care leavers are well prepared to make secure plans for the future; to live independently or to budget;
- care leavers, particularly those living independently, feel that they have insufficient access to help from their workers outside office hours;
- the quality and timeliness of pathway plans are not consistently good and the style and format of pathway planning does not encourage young people to contribute;
- while the large majority of care leavers are housed in suitable accommodation, it is not always immediately available for those who require higher levels of support;
- many staff lack awareness of planning securely for the long-term health needs of care leavers and are not effective in encouraging young people to attend health reviews or in ensuring that they have access to their health histories;
- there are lengthy delays in the provision of CAMHS or adult mental health services;
- not enough care leavers have been able to access the council's in-house apprenticeship scheme and no care leavers have so far been able to successfully complete their course; and
- specialist careers guidance is not available beyond 18.

3.11 Officers have worked to address these issues since the inspection, for example arrangements have been put in place to provide specialist careers guidance to the age of 25, and the draft Local Offer seeks to develop this work further.

## **4. The Local Offer for Care Leavers**

4.1 The Department for Education provided an example Local Offer to illustrate the kind of support a local authority may include in their offer to care leavers. This included a combination of statutory entitlements and services which county councils, district and borough councils and partner agencies can provide.

4.2 We have developed a proposed Local Offer in consultation with Care Leavers (See Appendix B). Young people, including Care Leavers, have been consulted throughout the drawing up of the Local Offer and are

keen to participate in the design of the offer and any promotional material.

4.3 The proposed Warwickshire Local Offer is based on the services we already have in place and looks to build on and strengthen these further, ensuring better outcomes for Care Leavers. However, the table below sets out the current offer in Warwickshire in terms of existing provision and areas which will be introduced, extended or improved under the Local Offer.

<b>Specific areas</b>	<b>Existing support</b>	<b>Proposed additional support under our local offer</b>
Support from Personal Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAs are allocated to work with all care leavers until they are 21 or until they are 25 if they are in education, training or employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All care leavers up to the age of 25 will have an allocated PA.</li> <li>• Care leavers whose cases are closed after their 21st birthday can approach Warwickshire and ask for support and guidance before they turn 25.</li> </ul>
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenancy - Following an assessment, care leavers are offered priority housing nomination.</li> <li>• Referrals are made to housing prior to the young person becoming 18.</li> <li>• A settling in home allowance to purchase essential items when gaining a permanent tenancy.</li> <li>• Supported Accommodation - offered to care leavers if they are not ready for independence,</li> <li>• Support workers are available to assist the young person in her/his accommodation.</li> <li>• Staying Put policy enables more care leavers to remain in stable fostering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredited Independence training and workshops will be offered to care leavers.</li> <li>• Care leavers will be supported to avoid becoming intentionally homeless.</li> <li>• A housing officer to work within the leaving care team to assist with housing nominations for care leavers in partnership with housing providers.</li> </ul>

	<p>placements beyond 18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported lodgings. Care Leavers can identify a person who is able to offer accommodation and support and Warwickshire will fund this until age 18 and make a contribution to any payment post 18.</li> </ul>	
--	---	--

Specific areas	Existing support	Proposed additional support under our local offer
Education Employment And Training (EET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payment of £1000 a year bursary to care leavers attending university.</li> <li>Support to apply for £1200 education bursary when attending college.</li> <li>Travel costs to and from university.</li> <li>If attending university help towards a deposit for accommodation.</li> <li>Accommodation costs met during university holidays.</li> <li>Support with writing CVs.</li> <li>Financial support can be provided for additional tutoring for young people who are struggling academically.</li> <li>A request for financial support can be made to the EET fund for transport costs to attend education, lap tops, books and equipment.</li> <li>2 Careers advisors are employed to support young people from year 11 to age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full time Careers Advisor to be appointed to support young people aged 17-25 years.</li> <li>Care leavers to be offered support to ensure “employment ready”.</li> <li>Induction and support to be provided to those undertaking an apprenticeship.</li> <li>Peer mentor service.</li> </ul>

	<p>17 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support in paying child care costs for young parents in education.</li> </ul>	
Transition to Independent Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life skills workshops are offered to all care leavers to improve their money management skills, practical skills such as cooking, managing a tenancy etc.</li> <li>• Support with visits to college and universities.</li> <li>• Virtual School Awards Event</li> <li>• Support with accessing apprenticeships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredited independence training in both group work and one to one work.</li> <li>• Social activities</li> <li>• Developing a drop in centre</li> <li>• DWP to attend drop in sessions to support young people to make transition and understand the benefit system.</li> <li>• Joint protocol with DWP.</li> </ul>
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAC Nurse conducts annual health assessments until the age of 18.</li> <li>• Incentives paid to young people to attend health and dental assessments.</li> <li>• Support to register with a GP.</li> <li>• Health passports to care leavers at their last statutory health check.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Staying healthy” sessions for care leavers</li> <li>• Annual celebration event</li> <li>• RISE to attend drop in sessions to advise and support young people and offer training and guidance to staff.</li> </ul>
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PA support and encouragement to establish or maintain healthy relationships</li> <li>• We will provide you with an allowance for your birthday and Christmas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group work for young parents regarding healthy relationships</li> <li>• Drop in social groups</li> <li>• Group work with UASC regarding relationships and minimising isolation in society.</li> <li>• Mentor service</li> </ul>
Participation and achieving well in society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care leavers Facebook account which is regularly updated.</li> <li>• Opportunity to participate in Children In Care Council</li> <li>• Opportunity to be involved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance to enrol on the Electoral Register.</li> </ul>

	in commissioning, recruitment and development of services.	
--	--	--

## 5. Additional Proposals

### Ring-fenced apprenticeships for care leavers

5.1 The Council currently guarantees care leavers an interview for apprenticeships. However, very few care leavers are able to take up these apprenticeships and, when they do, none go on to complete them successfully. It is believed that the reason care leavers are unsuccessful in gaining apprenticeships is that they are not as well prepared as other applicants or do not have the necessary experience to be successful at an interview. It is proposed, therefore, that initially 5 apprenticeships are ring-fenced for care leavers. It is also proposed that the Council provides pre- apprenticeship support, including work experience in the relevant area, for those care leavers who wish to take up an apprenticeship.

### Payment for care leavers in apprenticeships

5.2 A further reason why care leavers do not take up or successfully complete apprenticeships is the rate of pay. The National Minimum Wage for apprentices under 19, or those 19 or over in the first year of their apprenticeship, is £3.50 per hour. After the first year, apprentices who are 19 or over are paid the National Minimum Wage which is currently £5.60 (age 19 or 20) or £7.05 (age 21 or over).

5.3 These rates of pay may be suitable for young people living at home or for care leavers who are not yet living independently, but they are not sustainable for a care leaver who is living independently. It is proposed, therefore, that those care leavers living independently will receive additional financial support (in line with the bursaries offered to those attending higher education). This will ensure that we pay all care leaver apprentices employed by the Council who are living independently the national minimum wage for young people over 19 of £7.05 per hour and the Council apprentice hub will pay £1000 to each apprentice. For care leaver apprentices not employed by the Council who are living independently, a bursary will 'top up' their salary in line with the above.

### Council tax exemptions

5.4 In 2016, the Children's Society launched their campaign entitled 'A Fairer

Start for Care Leavers'. This campaign and their report 'The Wolf at the Door' highlighted the financial pressures on care leavers and called on all Councils to "make care leavers exempt from paying council tax until they turn 25; giving these young people a few valuable years to learn how to manage their finances and have a better chance at avoiding problem debt in the future."

- 5.5 The Children's Society explained that care leavers can be a particularly vulnerable group when it comes to Council Tax. They argue:

"When a young person leaves care and moves in to independent accommodation, they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. They find themselves grappling with the challenges of living independently; managing a household, continuing education or seeking employment, as well as managing their personal finances and paying household bills for the first time - often without the support of family or previous financial education to help them navigate this. Our 'Wolf at the door' report reveals that council tax debt can be a particularly frightening experience for care leavers. What can start out for many care leavers as falling slightly behind can very quickly escalate to a court summons and enforcement action being taken." (Children's Society, 2016)

- 5.6 As part of the offer we have, therefore, examined whether to exempt care leavers from paying council tax. Prior to the Act, more than a third of councils across England (and six of the 14 West Midlands councils) had taken the step to exempt care leavers from council tax up to the age of 21. We expect this will increase as council's consider their Local Offer. The care leavers who would benefit from Council Tax exemption are the ones who are in employment, on a training or apprenticeship scheme. Young people in full-time education are usually exempt from paying council tax due to their student status or because they are claiming certain welfare benefits such as universal credit or income support.

- 5.7 The most practical way to achieve this is to pay the Council Tax for Warwickshire care leavers who live in the county up to the age of 21. For care leavers placed outside of the county, in areas where they are not exempt from paying Council Tax, it is proposed that Warwickshire County Council will reimburse the cost.

## **Leisure passes**

- 5.8 Staying physically and mentally healthy will be strongly assisted by access to leisure facilities. Free leisure passes is identified as good practice within the DfE's exemplar and already provided by some Councils. They will also

allow care leavers to challenge growing obesity concerns. A report was presented to the Warwickshire Lead Offers Group on 8th March 2018, which includes chief officers from district and borough councils. The group were provided with information regarding the new statutory corporate parenting duties which apply to district and borough councils and have since agreed to provide free access to leisure facilities for care leavers from the age of 16- 21 years old. The leisure passes generally cost an average of £20 each per year. North Warwickshire, Rugby, Stratford and Warwick have confirmed agreement to free passes. Nuneaton and Bedworth have agreed access to swimming for free and 10% discount on other leisure facilities. Practical arrangements are being confirmed on an individual basis. For care leavers living outside of Warwickshire, a leisure pass will be funded by the County Council.

## **Driving lessons**

- 5.9 Learning to drive is a key element of independence for many young people. It can also provide access to education and employment. The Council already supports care leavers in obtaining a provisional driving licence. It is proposed to extend this support by offering to purchase an initial block of driving lessons (e.g. 10 lessons) for all care leavers at any time between their seventeenth and twenty first birthday. The total cost is estimated to be £44,200. If care leavers wish to learn to drive a motorcycle or a car lessons can be used for one or the other.

## **Improved Access to Mental Health Services**

- 5.10 Care Leavers are between 4 and 5 times more likely to attempt suicide in adulthood according to Young Minds. Therefore easy access to mental health support is vital. The new RISE contract states the provider will work with care leaver up to the age of 17 moving to 25 over the lifetime (7 years) of the contract. RISE have agreed to be more engaged with the leaving care team to include staff consultations and to support the team to access adult mental health services when needed.
- 5.11 The Council has also successfully received £35,000 from DfE to commission a bespoke mental health and mentor service for UASC, including art therapy to help address issues of anxiety and stress due to their experiences that led them to the UK, such as the consequences of conflict and war in their country of origin.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The increase in costs to implement the Care Leaver Offer will be met from

within the resources of the Children and Families Business Unit and an additional grant received from the Government.

- 6.2 The table below provides information regarding the financial implications. The total additional cost for the County Council is £102,200 per annum based on all current care leavers utilizing all elements of the offer.

Additional service/offer for care leavers.	Estimated cost to County Council based on 100% uptake of services by current 2017-2018 care leavers.
Apprenticeships	£15,000
Council Tax	£25,000
Driving Licence & Lessons	£44,200
Mental Health for UASC	£30,000 (to be funded by DfE grant)
Mentor	£5,000 (to be funded by DfE grant)
Accredited independent living skills training	£15,000
Leisure Passes for care leavers within Warwickshire	£7,000 (to be funded by District and Borough Councils)
Leisure Passes for care leavers outside of Warwickshire	£3,000
Recruitment of additional Personal Advisor	£33,000 (to be funded by DfE grant)
<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>£177,200</b>
<b>Contributions from DfE and District and Borough Councils</b>	<b>£75,000</b>
<b>Total Cost to County Council:</b>	<b>£102,200</b>

- 6.3 As the number of care leavers increases, the annual cost is likely to grow and will need to be met within budgets. It is recommended that the annual cost and availability of the DfE and district and borough contributions is monitored and the local offer is reviewed with future years' financial constraints being a factor in the reviews.

## 7. Next Steps

- 7.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, it is proposed to advertise the Local Offer through the Leaving Care Facebook page, the Intranet and by posters and leaflets. A meeting has been scheduled to discuss the use of YouTube to further promote this as social media is widely used amongst young people.

## Background papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Sharon Shaw	<a href="mailto:sharonshaw@warwickshire.gov.uk">sharonshaw@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Head of Service	John Coleman	<a href="mailto:johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk">johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Strategic Director	Nigel Minns	<a href="mailto:nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk">nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jeff Morgan	<a href="mailto:jeffmorgan@warwickshire.gov.uk">jeffmorgan@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local members:

N/A

Other members:

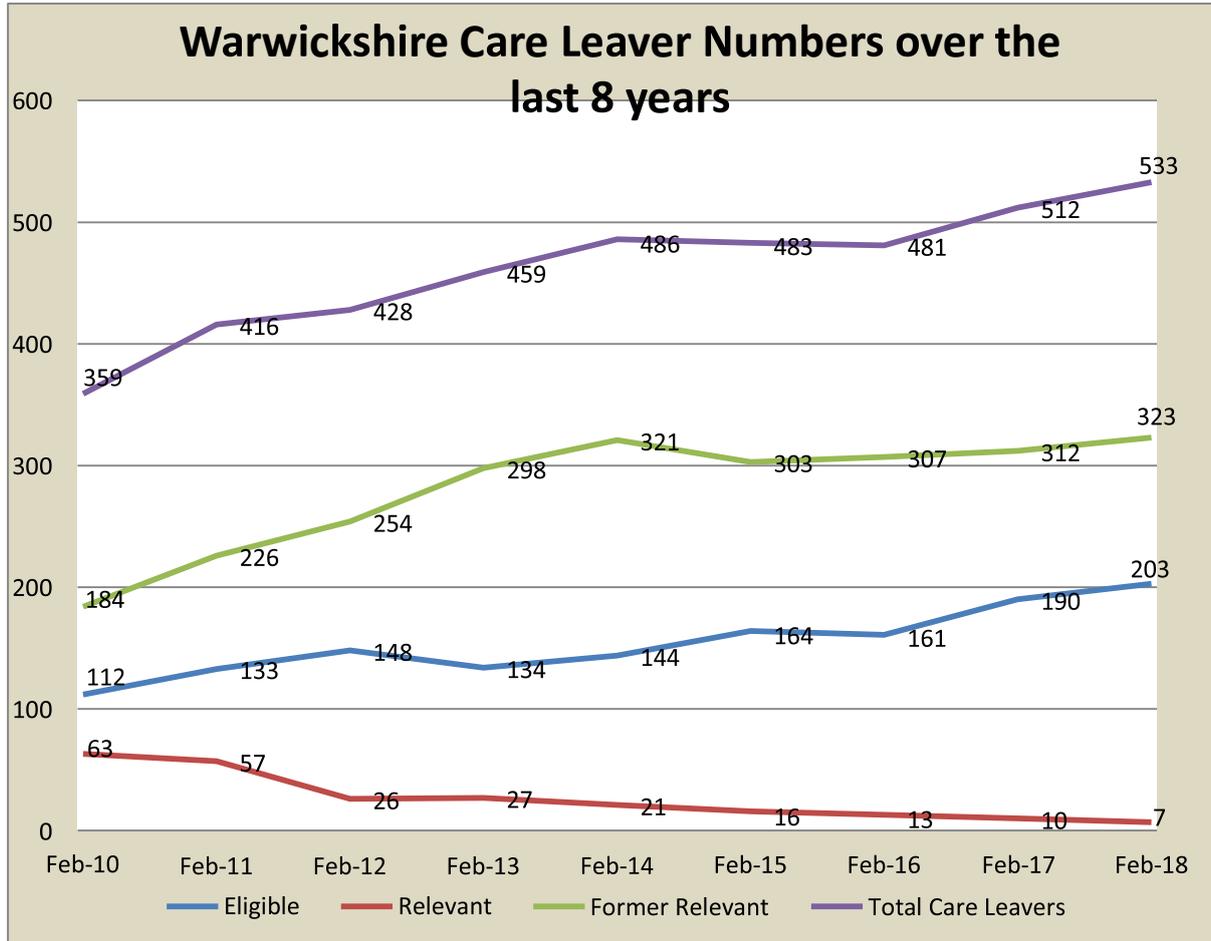
Councillors Hayfield, Dahmash, Morgan, Roodhouse, C.Davies, Williams

Corporate Parenting Panel minutes 5th April 2018

## Appendix A - Current & Projected Care Leavers

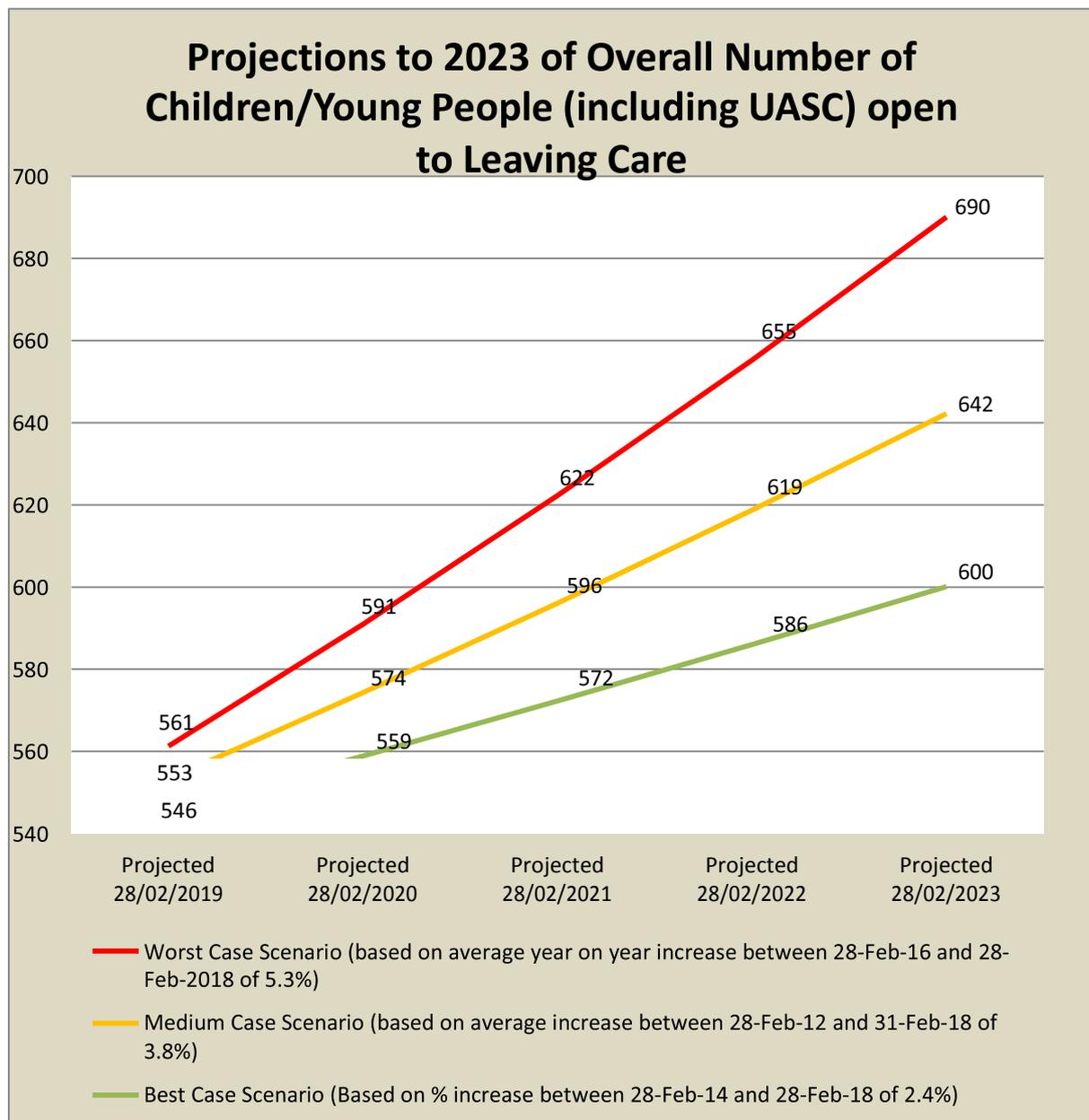
### Current number of care leavers

Table A below shows at the end of February 2018 there were a total of 533 care leavers. This consisted of 323 former relevant, 203 eligible, 7 relevant and 0 qualifying children. Over the last eight years the table shows the total number of care leavers has grown by 48% since 2010.



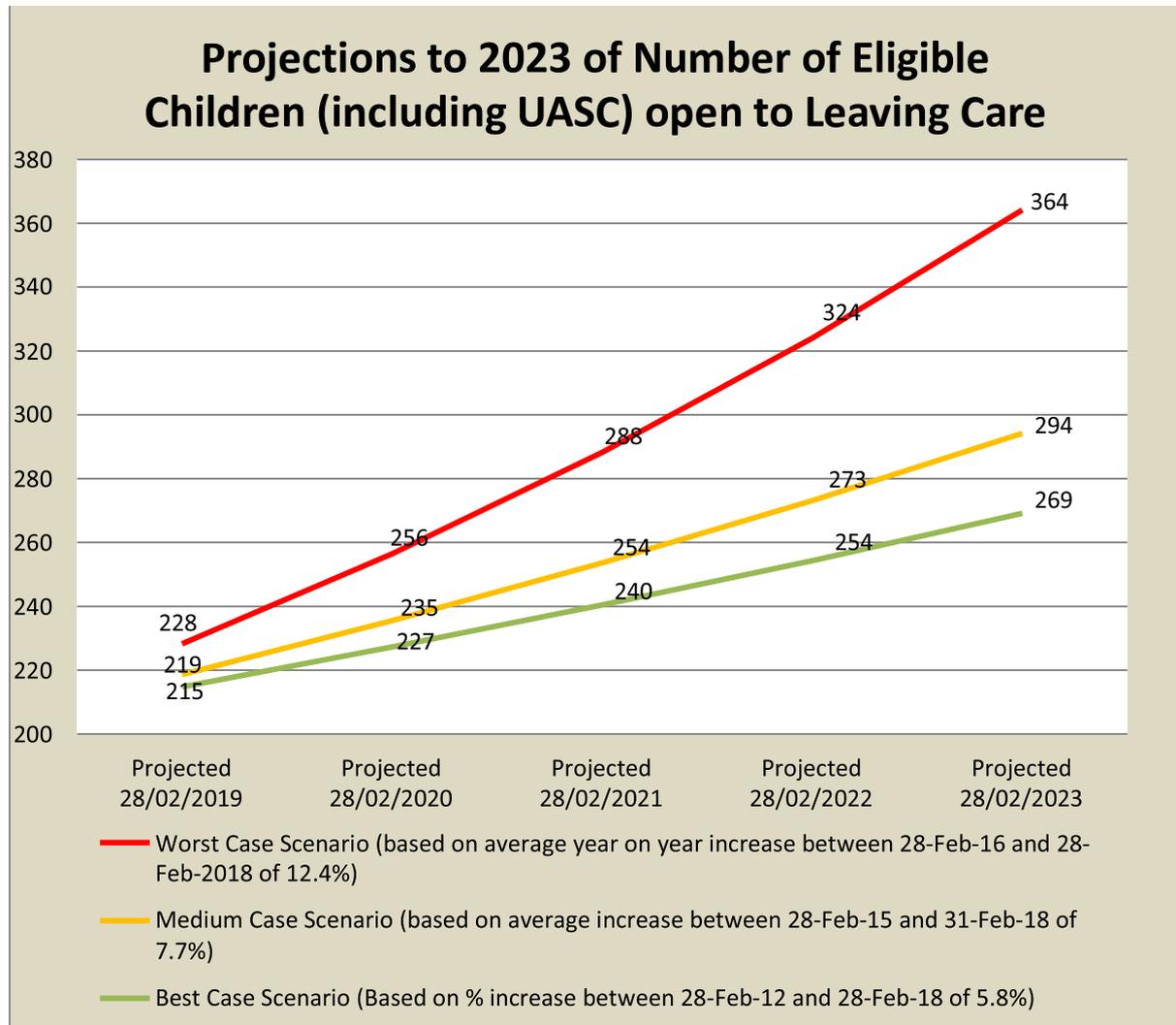
Projected number of care leavers for the next five years.

Table B below seeks to predict the number of care leavers from 2019-2023 based on the best, medium and worst case scenarios. This is calculated based on the current number of children looked after. The number of care leavers is likely to grow between 12% - 29% over the next five years. It is estimated that by 2023 there will be between 600 to 690 care leavers in Warwickshire.



Projected number of care leavers for the next five years.

Table c seeks to predict the number of care leavers classified as eligible from 2019-2023 based on the best, medium and worst case scenarios. This is calculated based on the current number of children looked after.



**Provided by Insight Service.**

**March 2018**

# Local offer for Warwickshire's Care Leavers.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017, requires councils to publish a local offer for care leavers. The local offer is a document that provides information about all the services and support that is available to them in the local area where they live when they leave care. It should include information about legal entitlements (rights) as well as any extra support that the council might choose to give. In addition it extends local authority support to Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years.

The local offer must include details of the services and support that the council provides in relation to:

- Health and wellbeing
- Relationships & Keeping safe
- Education and training
- Employment
  
- Accommodation
- Participation in society

# Care Leaver Status

- **Eligible child** is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who is still being looked after.
- **Relevant child** is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who has left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16, but who were looked after immediately before being detained.
- **Former relevant child** is a young person over 18 who was previously 'eligible' or 'relevant'. Councils support this group until aged 25
- **Qualifying child** is any young person under 25 who stops being looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or being privately fostered, after the age of 16. This also includes young people who are under a special guardianship order.

# Local Offer Principles

The principles require corporate parents:

- To promote physical, mental health and well being
- To support and encourage young people to share wishes, views and feelings and to take these into account
- To support young people to access and make use of services provided in Warwickshire
- To promote high aspirations and secure the best outcomes for young people
- For young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
- Prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

These principles apply to County Council, District and Borough Council.

# Health and Wellbeing

- We will support you to attend an annual health assessment, dental and opticians appointments and provide advice and guidance on living a healthy lifestyle.
- We will support you to register with a GP.
- We will give you information on counselling services.
- We will provide a support service offering advice and guidance on how to improve health outcomes.
- If you need mental health services we will support you to access the right level of support.
- We will offer group sessions for parents and YP encouraging healthy lifestyles.
- We will give you a health passport at 18 years old so that you know your health history.
- We will offer leisure passes for all Care Leavers until 21 years old.

# Relationships and Keeping safe

- A consistent Social Worker to support you from 16 – 18 yrs and if you move placement we will visit you within 1 week and minimum 6 weekly thereafter.
- Where appropriate support you to continue your contact with your independent visitor if you have one.
- We will support you to regain or maintain contact with people who are special to you.
- If you move accommodation after you turn 18 we will visit you in the first week. We will then visit you again after 4 weeks and arrange with you thereon, how you would like your contact including frequency. This will be a minimum 8 week.
- A Consistent Personal Advisor will be allocated when you turn 18 and you can continue to have support up until you are 25.
- Provide you with a mentor/ peer mentor.

# Support

- You will have a pathway plan that you produce with the support of your social worker/ Personal advisor which helps you identify your future goals and aspirations and how we will work together to achieve these.
- You will have access and be asked if you want support from an independent advocate.
- We will support you to access your files should you wish to see them.

# Education, Employment and Training

- We have recruited a dedicated careers advisor after being advised by Ofsted, this person will work with young people up to age 25.
- We will be creative in supporting you to engage with activities to build self esteem and confidence.
- You can receive a bursary up to £1200 if you stay in education for at least 16 hours per wk.
- We can support you if you chose to go to university by visiting university with you or providing travel costs for the visit. We will support you to obtain tuition fees and maintenance loans.
- We will give you a £1000 per year bursary for each year at University.
- We will contribute to your rent costs during University holidays.
- We will celebrate your successes.
- We will support you to do work experience and voluntary work.
- We can provide (limited) apprenticeships within the local authority, ring fenced for care leavers initially starting at 5 placements. We will look to provide apprentices with the national minimum wage if working for Warwickshire or a bursary.
- We will offer additional support to our apprentices including induction programme and 1 to 1 support where required to help you to be successful.

# Money Matters

- We will support and fund you to apply for identifying documentation ie passport, provisional licence and your National Insurance number before you turn 18 if you are eligible.
- We will help you open a bank account and support you to gain access to your junior ISA
- Support to set up home, helping to purchase items to fully furnish your new home. This will include your 1<sup>st</sup> television license and a year's home contents insurance.
- Care leavers who are 16-17 yrs of age living in supported accommodation will be provided with a weekly allowance equivalent to benefits to support them to live independently
- We will provide you with a financial gift on your birthday and at Christmas (festival allowance).
- We will advise you on what support is available in an emergency situation.
- To have a joint protocol with the DWP to allow for 2-way communication with your permission to resolve issues for care leavers. PAs to be contacted prior to any sanction being put in force for Care leavers.
- For all Care Leavers to have a travel card, either reduced cost or free to support to education, work, and recreation (nationally).
- You will have a PA who has knowledge of benefits and the claims process.
- We will provide financial education for all care leavers and debt management support when needed.
- We will support you to plan and budget for covering the cost of driving lessons and test.
- For Care leavers to be exempt from Council Tax until 21 yrs old.
- We would look to offer equitable financial support for our UASC Section 20 young people

# Independent Living/ Housing

- We will provide you with a safe housing option for 16 & 17yr olds that meet your needs and help you to understand your rights and entitlements if you decide to leave care.
- We will give you the option to stay put with your foster carer until you are 21 if you and your foster carer agree to this.
- We will provide practical support for you to move to different accommodation when needed.
- Support 18yr olds and above to find somewhere suitable to live taking into account their wishes and needs as outlined in the Homelessness Act 2017 and you will be dealt with as a priority and to have a joint protocol with housing to support care leavers.
- We will offer you independent living skills training which will be accredited.

# Participation

- Support you to find information on clubs and groups that you may wish to join.
- Inform you of different awards and schemes and competitions that you want to enter online with your interests.
- We will give you an opportunity to participate in Children in Care Council.
- We will support you to enrol on the electoral register.
- Giving you advice to support you to challenge any discrimination that you may experience as a care leaver.

# How we will promote local offer

The local offer will be promoted through:

- Leaflets
- Posters
- Social media
- All of these will have links to the Warwickshire website where the full local offer will be clearly detailed.

# Extension of service to 25 years

With the extension of the service to 25 years there will be a need to extend Personal Advisor capacity.

Working on a caseload of 25 young people per worker, we would need to employ a maximum of 9 additional PA's if all post 21 year olds returned for a service from April 2017.

If there is a gradual increase of young people returning for a service we would require a gradual increase in PA's.

No details of any additional government funding have been provided so far.