



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee

6 December 2021

Report Title:	Cabinet Response to the Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People Task Group
Cabinet Portfolio	Children and Young People
Cabinet Member	Councillor Nova Charlton
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	Jim Leivers Director of Children and Young People's Services jimleivers@sthelens.gov.uk 01744 671802
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Borough priorities	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	x
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	
	Be a responsible Council	

1. Summary

- 1.1 In response to the recommendations made by the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee task group following a review of improving work opportunities for care experienced young people an action plan was presented to Cabinet on the 23 June 2021.
- 1.2 Cabinet was recommended to approve the action plan that set out the response to the recommendations from the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee task groups review of improving work opportunities for care experienced young people. The action plan presented to Cabinet on the 23 June 2021 can be found in appendix 1.

2. Recommendations for Decision

The Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- i) Note the Cabinet response to the approved action plan and recommendations as agreed at Cabinet on 23 June 2021.

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 This report outlines the outcome of the presentation of the the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee report and proposed action plan to Cabinet on the 23 June 2021.
- 3.2 To confirm Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee subsequently agreed that the response from Cabinet would be presented to the committee on the 6 December 2021, not 12 July 2021.

4. Background /Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 In February 2020, the then Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Panel commenced a review of Apprenticeships for Children We Look After. Due to the pandemic lockdown, the work of this task and finish group ceased and an interim report based on its findings were submitted to Cabinet including the recommendation for what a further task group should consider that the previous group had been unable to.

- 4.2 In October 2020, the newly named Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People task group to consider the further issues raised by the previous task group. The task group decided to also consider how the pandemic had affected work opportunities available to local young people aged 16yrs and above.
- 4.3 The Task Group held a series of meetings between November 2020 and January 2021 and received evidence from a range of witnesses from across the Council and external organisations. The findings and recommendations of the task group were presented to Cabinet on the 21 April 2021 and accepted.
- 4.4 On the 23 June 2021 Cabinet approved the action plan and resolved that the response to the recommendations be submitted to the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee on 12 July 2021.

5 Community Impact Assessment

- 5.2 A Community Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

6 Consideration of Alternatives

- 6.2 There are no alternative options related to this report which confirms Cabinet approval of the action plan for improving work opportunities for care experienced young people.

7 Conclusions

- 7.2 The review undertaken by the task group on behalf of Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee into how we can improve opportunities for work experience for care experienced young people provides insight into the existing partnership activity in the borough and provides recommendations for development and improvement.
- 7.3 The recommendations of the review and action plan approved by Cabinet has recognised the need for the Council and its partners to be aspirational for young people who are care experienced and to prioritise areas of communication, engagement, training, and discussions aimed at improving opportunities for work experience.
- 7.4 Regular and detailed monitoring of the action plan will be undertaken by responsible officers and overseen by the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny committee.

8. Implications

8.1 Legal Implications

- 8.1.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

- 8.2.1 Social Value

8.2.1.1 It is noted that the action plan sets out how recommendations within the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Task Group report will be delivered and create and promote work opportunities for care experienced young people.

8.2.2 Sustainability and Environment

8.2.2.1 There are no sustainability and environmental impacts arising from this report.

8.2.3 Health and Wellbeing

8.2.3.1 As employment and career prospects can be seen as a key determinant of health and in particular mental health then the action plan arising from the recommendations within the task group report relate specifically to being aspirational and supporting and promoting positive life opportunities and the well-being of care experienced young people.

8.2.4 Equality and Human Rights

8.2.4.1 There are no direct impacts to Equality or Human Rights emerging from the recommendations within the task group report and action plan.

8.3 Customers and Resident

8.3.1 Children and young people that the Council looks after and care leavers are residents and may be affected by changes to service provision should the recommendations be accepted and implemented.

8.4 Asset and Property

8.4.1 There are no asset or property issues arising from this report.

8.5 Staffing and Human Resource

8.5.1 Report recommendations and the action plan that has been accepted by Cabinet has workforce implications. Consultation with Human Resources and other officers will be required to increase and progress work opportunities for care experienced young people.

8.6 Risks

8.6.1 There are no risks identified in relation to the recommendations within the task group report and action plan.

8.7 Finance

8.7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within the task group report and the action plan.

8.8 Policy Framework Implications

Recommendations and action plan have been accepted by Cabinet and these set out requirements in relation to new or existing policies and strategies.

9. **Background papers**

- a. Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People Task Group Report.
- b. Cabinet Report 21st April 2021 - Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People Task and Finish Group Report.
- c. Cabinet Report 23 June 2021 - Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People Action Plan.

10. Appendices

- a. Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People Action Plan