

# Ensuring Employability and Raising Aspirations - Perspectives from a Beacon Authority

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# Why Leicester?

- Beacon Authority for Looked After Children – Corporate Parenting
- Pilot authority for Care2work quality mark
- Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership award winners for EET opportunities for care leavers
- Doesn't mean that we have all the answers!

# Partnership Working in Leicester

Multi-agency sustainable partnership to support and maintain care leavers in post-16 EET. Key Aims:

- Raising aspirations – aiming high and achieving potential
- Improving employability skills and career planning
- Maximising EET opportunities – core offer/menu of options
- Streamlining and co-ordinating pathways to EET
- Celebrating Success

# Partnership working in Leicester

## Way Ahead Project/Steering Group

- Partnership – Connexions, Social Care, Voluntary and private sector, HEIs, FE Colleges, Training Providers
- HE Development group
  - HE Summer Schools for IAC
  - HE Training for foster carers
  - Info sharing
- FE Development Group
  - FE Transition
  - Designated Tutor role
- Training sub-group

# Partnership Working in Leicester

## Way Ahead Project Manager

- Funded by Care Matters Grant
- Employed by Connexions, seconded to Social Care
- Co-ordinates project activity
- Leads on EET issues for LAC – Career Planning and employability
- Tracking and monitoring
- Data management

# Partnership Working in Leicester

## Corporate Parenting Developments

- Work experience within the Council
  - priority for LAC
- Apprenticeships within the Council
  - 25% ring fenced for LAC
- Work experience in the private sector
  - Flying Fish project for LAC and care leavers
- Involvement in Care2Work
  - Work experience placements with Marriot Hotel

# Partnership Working in Leicester

- Informal/Youth Work opportunities
  - Specialist LAC Youth Worker
  - Informal opportunities as bridge back to formal EET
- Acknowledging and Rewarding Achievements
  - Celebrating Success annual event

# Benefits for Care Leavers

- Career Planning
  - better and clearer information, advice and guidance
- Taster experiences
  - projects and activities – tasting world of work/college/University before making an informed choice
- Improved support
  - more and better co-ordinated support; clear financial support

# Benefits for Care Leavers (2)

- More opportunities
  - Wider range of opportunities; priority given to care leavers in any new initiatives
- Celebrating Success
  - Acknowledging and rewarding achievements
- Improving Outcomes

# Benefits for Partners

- Raising Awareness
  - Better understanding across agencies of needs of care leavers
- Data sharing
  - Corporate Parent tag
- Utilising funding streams
  - Creative and effective use of funding
- Improving Outcomes

# Key Messages

- Strategic sign up
  - Commitment at highest level to secure investment of staff time, skills and knowledge – Cabinet/Chief Exec/DCS
- Creating the Culture
  - High aspirations across all agencies
- Think creatively
  - Range of partners
  - Creative use of funding opportunities

# Key Messages

- Co-ordination
  - Co-ordinating role is crucial to maximise efficiency and outcomes