

03 October 2023 at 7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks

Published: 25.09.23



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# People & Places Advisory Committee

## Membership:

Chairman, Cllr. Bulford ; Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Dyball

Cllrs. Alger, Barnett, P. Darrington, Edwards-Winsor, Granville, Gustard, Hogarth, Hudson, Manamperi and Cathy Morgan

## Agenda

There are no fire drills planned. If the fire alarm is activated, which is a continuous siren with a flashing red light, please leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs.

	Pages	Contact
Apologies for Absence		
1. <b>Minutes</b> To agree the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 20 June 2023, as a correct record.	(Pages 1 - 6)	
2. <b>Declarations of interest</b> Any interest not already registered.		
3. <b>Actions from Previous Meeting (if any)</b>		
4. <b>Referral from Cabinet or the Audit committee (if any)</b>		
5. <b>Update from Portfolio Holder</b>		
6. <b>Community Plan Update</b>	(Pages 7 - 24)	Kelly Webb Tel: 01732 227474
7. <b>Community Grant Scheme 2022/23 Update</b>	(Pages 25 - 42)	Jenny Godfrey Tel: 01732 227112
8. <b>Community Mobilisation Programme</b>	(Pages 43 - 46)	Kelly Webb Tel: 01732 227474

- |     |                             |                 |                                   |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9.  | <b>Care Leavers Support</b> | (Pages 47 - 96) | Sarah Robson<br>Tel: 01732 227129 |
| 10. | <b>Work Plan</b>            | (Pages 97 - 98) |                                   |

**EXEMPT INFORMATION**

At the time of preparing this agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public.

If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact Democratic Services on 01732 227000 or [democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk).

PEOPLE & PLACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2023 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Bulford (Chairman)

Cllr. Dyball (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Alger, Barnett, C.Morgan, P. Darrington, Edwards-Winsor, Granville, Hudson and Manamperi

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Gustard and Hogarth

Cllr. Manston was also present.

1. Election of Chairman

Resolved: That Cllr Bulford be appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee for 2023/24.

(Cllr Bulford in the Chair)

2. Election of Vice Chairman

Resolved: That Cllr Dyball be appointed Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the year 2023/24.

3. Minutes

Resolved: That the Minutes of the People & Places Advisory Committee held on 23 February 2023, be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no additional declarations of interest.

5. Actions from Previous Meeting

There were none.

6. Update from Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder updated the Committee on some of the key highlights of work undertaken within her Portfolio including stating that it had been a busy few months with the reopening of Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres and

## Agenda Item 1

### People & Places Advisory Committee - 20 June 2023

Lullingstone Golf Course being achieved within 6 weeks of Sencio ceasing to trade, under the interim operator, Everyone Active. Community activities had included 12 week free football sessions in Hartley, Swanley, Edenbridge and New Ash Green, which came to an end in June. The launch of the Better Together community mobilisation programme built on the 'hands on' projects that people created during the pandemic in their own neighbourhoods. It helped provide practical support, skills development, networking and capacity building to individuals and new/existing community groups to enable new initiatives and groups. The online Better Together Community Hub had been launched, which included details of local services, a community toolkit and information on volunteering opportunities, activities and events. Members were encouraged to follow Better Together on Social Media and sign up on the website:-

Website: [www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk](http://www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk)

Instagram: bettertogethercommunityhub

Twitter: @hub\_together

Facebook Page: Better Together Community Hub - Sevenoaks District

The Council's supported internship programme was coming to an end with Broomhill Bank School and talks were underway with the school to continue for a further year from September. The Portfolio Holder expressed her thanks to the students for all their work and wished them well with their future endeavours.

Members' attention was brought to the Kent Police Neighbourhood Policing model which went live on 7 June. It would see an increase in Police Constables across the county, as well as Beat Officers who would have more on-street visibility as well as powers of arrest and enforcement. Other Community Safety work included a Violence Against Women & Girls round table event and a multi-agency approach to tackling anti-social behaviour at The Vine. Resources for the latter were being provided from youth workers, Police and Sevenoaks Town Council.

The Portfolio Holder was also pleased to announce the success of the Council in securing £1.5 million funding as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural Prosperity Fund, alongside the completion of the Meeting Point business hub in Swanley High Street.

Members were reminded that the Family fun days were taking place again this year and started on 24 July 2023, alongside a busy programme of tennis and rugby sessions and netball sessions.

#### 7. Referral from Cabinet or the Audit committee

There were none.

#### 8. Role of the Advisory Committee and Key Challenges

The Chief Officer People and Places gave a presentation on the role of the Committee and the areas of responsibility including; Community Plan, Community Safety, Town Centres, Tourism, West Kent Partnership, WK Leader, Community Grants, Safeguarding, Youth, Parishes, Leisure Activities, Wellbeing. She also summarised the key issues and challenges facing those areas.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9. Public Realm Commission Annual Update

Members considered the report which provided an update on the work of the Commissioner from the Public Realm. The Committee was provided with the background to the role of the Public Realm Commissioner and his end of term report with key projects and lessons learned.

Members discussed the report and asked questions of clarification. In response to questions, the Chief Officer for People & Places advised that if a budget was made available for the Public Realm Commissioner it would result in existing and popular community events and activities being withdrawn. However, the Health & Communities Team are advising the Commissioner on available external funding opportunities for the Public Realm.

The Committee thanked Cllr Hogarth and the Team.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

10. Public Spaces Protection Order - The Vine Proposed Consultation

The Health and Community Safety Manager presented the report which sets out a proposed 6 week public consultation for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for 3 years at the Vine and surrounding green areas in Sevenoaks. The Council had a duty to do all that was reasonable to prevent crime and disorder in its area and work towards delivering the objectives of the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Plan. The Community Safety Unit worked alongside Sevenoaks Town Council and it had been agreed by them as the area was owned by them.

Over many years there had been reoccurring Anti-Social behaviour and criminal damage at the Vine however this year has seen an increase in this behaviour.

The restrictions proposed for the PSPO were to include:

- Failing to comply with a direction not to consume, in breach of this order, alcohol, or anything which an authorised person reasonably believes to be alcohol where the authorised person reasonably believes that a person has engaged in anti-social behaviour.

## Agenda Item 1

### People & Places Advisory Committee - 20 June 2023

- Failing to surrender a container of alcohol (whether open or not) when asked to do so by an authorised person.
- Engaging in anti-social behaviour which is likely to cause harassment alarm and distress to those persons in the locality.
- Not to return within 24 hours.

Members discussed the report. In response to concerns raised, the Officers advised that young people would be consulted via the schools, and looking at dates it would be possible for the result of the consultation to come to the November meeting of the Advisory Committee. Members were also advised that dispersal orders were only put in on an evidence base and would only cover weekends and may not be in place every weekend. A PSPO would involve signage and detail what could not be carried out at the Vine and surrounding areas, but people would only be asked to move on, if they were causing Anti-Social behaviour.

If the consultation was agreed to take place, Members were encouraged to complete the public consultation where they would be able to detail their thoughts in regards to the PSPO.

#### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the contents of the report and the process for implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), be noted; and
- b) the recommendation to Cabinet to authorise a 6 week consultation with members of the public and partners on implementing a PSPO at The Vine and surrounding grass areas, be supported.

#### 11. Work Plan

The work plan was noted with the addition of the results of the PSPO consultation being added to the meeting on 30 November 2023.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8.20 PM

CHAIRMAN



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**COMMUNITY PLAN 2022-23 Qtrs 3 & 4 INCLUDING END OF YEAR**

**Committee – PEOPLE & PLACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2023**

**Report of:** Chief Officer People & Places

**Status:** For Comment

**Also considered by:**

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary:** This report looks at the work of the Local Strategic Partnerships Community Plan from April 2022 - March 2023.

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** Council Plan

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Lesley Dyball

**Contact Officer(s):** Kelly Webb, Ext. 7474

**Recommendation to People & Places Advisory Committee**

To consider the Sevenoaks District Community Plans Annual Report for 2022-23.

**Reason for recommendation:**

To keep Members updated on the work of the Local Strategic Partnership.

## Agenda Item 6

### **Introduction and Background**

This Community Plan sets out a vision that reflects what local people have told us is important to them in the District.

The 10 year (2022-2032) vision is supported by a three-year plan, which sets out our priorities for action. The current three-year action plan covers the period 2022-25 and ends in March 2025.

This report summarises the work of the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) over the first financial year (2022/23).

The report attached at Appendix A is a summary of the work that has taken place over the year.

### **Other options Considered and/or rejected**

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

Delivery of the Community Plan is through each agency's own resources. In some cases, work will be dependent upon external funding sources and appropriate funding bids will be made.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

#### Equality Assessment

There are no negative impacts - the annual report applies to all.

#### Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment]

#### Community Impact and Outcomes

The Community Plan is based upon the actions delivered by Sevenoaks District Council, partner agencies and other stakeholders. It also reflects community needs identified through local data.

**Conclusions**

- 1 The Local Strategic Partnership Community Plan Annual Report highlights the work throughout 2022-23

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Community Plan 2022-23 Qtrs 3 & 4

**Background Papers**

None

Name and title of chief officer in Bold i.e.

**Sarah Robson**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer – People & Places**

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1.

# Better Together

A Community Plan for Sevenoaks District 2022–2032

Monitoring Report Year 1: Q3 & 4



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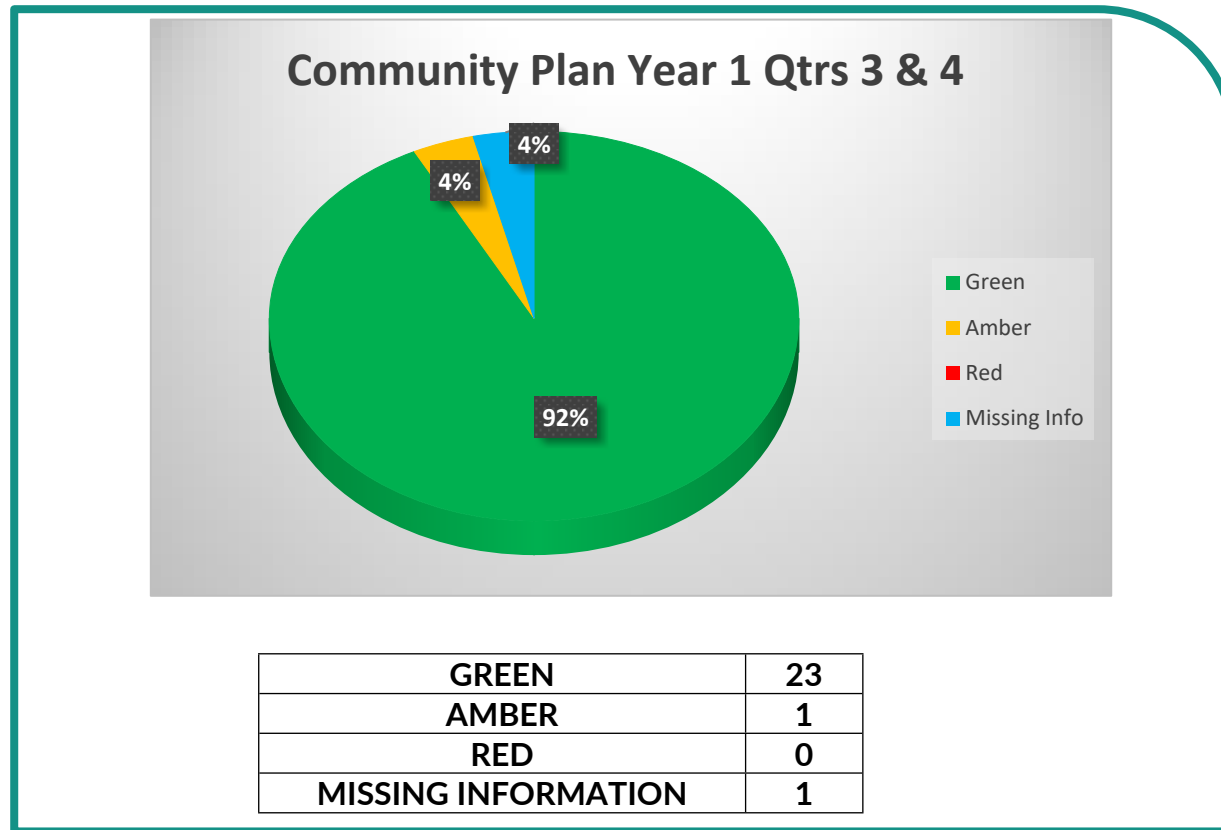
Agenda Item 6

## Better Together

A Community Plan for Sevenoaks District 2022–2032

This action plan supports the ‘Better Together’ Community Plan, a shared, long-term, partnership vision for Sevenoaks District developed by the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership. The partnership is made up of private, public, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations who work with communities to identify and tackle key long, medium and short-term local issues to ensure Sevenoaks District remains a great place to live and work.

At the first year of monitoring (1 Oct 22 – 31 March 23), 92% of the actions in the plan were on target to be achieved





**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 volunteer hours have been contributed to the project each month</li> <li>• 129ha of nature conservation work achieved including rare lowland heathland habitat restoration at Bitchet, Crockham Hill and Seal Chart Commons</li> <li>• 26km of access improvements</li> <li>• x 2 18-month apprenticeships with related City and Guilds qualifications</li> <li>• 150+ free activities delivered to communities in Sevenoaks, Westerham and Seal, engaging over 3,000 people</li> </ul>	
1.2	Through the review of the local plan, we provide a long term strategic overview of what is needed in our towns and cities within an ever changing environment, putting in place the mechanisms to enable delivery.	Sevenoaks District Council	As mentioned above, there is a long term strategic overview for Towns and Cities. Alongside the Local Plan consultation, engagement sessions will be held with the Town & Parish Council Forum, the Local Strategic Partnership and also public drop-in sessions will be hosted by the Strategic Planning Team throughout the consultation period.	
1.3	Deliver actions in the Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy, working alongside communities and partners to help identify and deliver the supply of new homes which reflects current and future housing needs.	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>26 Affordable Homes delivered in 22/23. 6 homes delivered directly by the Council for mother and babies or single females have been leased from the HFT charity (a charity that specialises in caring for adults with learning difficulties).</p> <p>2 year funding secured from DLUHC to support the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping in the District.</p> <p>£2.8m capital funding secured from Government’s Local Authority Housing Fund to deliver 18 units of affordable accommodation to support the Homes for Ukraine and Afghan resettlement schemes in the District.</p>	



**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

1.4	Creating communities that have the infrastructure and accessibility to meet the needs of changing and growth population.	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>Our Better Together Online Community Hub was set up and went live at the end of March. This hub helps residents and communities to help set up community groups and the tools they need to do this. The online hub also provides a directory of services and volunteering opportunities across the District. It also has a Facebook, Insta and Twitter account.</p> <p>Consultation ongoing on the emerging Local Plan (Plan 2040)</p> <p>Sevenoaks Urban Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) adopted. Consultation currently open on preferred Sevenoaks Urban Area LCWIP route (East – West).</p> <p>Additional funding secured for an LCWIP in Swanley.</p>	
Page 15 1.5	Working with key partners to prevent individuals in financial hardship from becoming homeless through early intervention, advice and support, encouraging people into employment where possible.	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>Relaunched the HERO service providing personalised advice and support to Sevenoaks residents and customers in the private rented sector and owner occupiers for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saving money on fuel bills</li> <li>• Support with households costs, including food</li> <li>• Debt, rent or mortgage advice and support</li> <li>• Welfare benefits</li> <li>• Retraining and skills options, getting back to work</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> <li>• Referrals to community support services</li> <li>• Referrals for Housing Advicesupport</li> </ul> <p>Housing and Communities monthly hub launched with partners at the Council's offices, with a weekly drop in held in Swanley.</p>	
1.6	Making the most of the benefits of inward investment and economic growth. Promoting the District as an	Sevenoaks District Council	MoreSevenoaks campaign refreshed and updated on a regular basis with new features outlined. Attended two	

**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

	outstanding place to live and work whilst safeguarding its heritage and natural assets.		tourism trade fairs to promote the brand and the visit element.	
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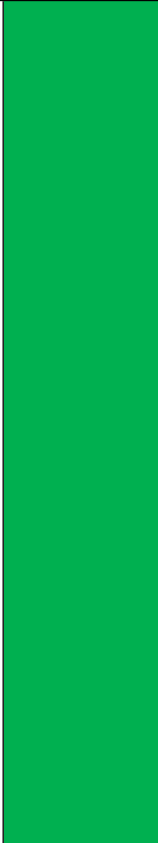
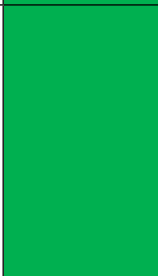
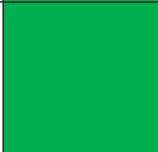
**BETTER TOGETHER - OUR ECONOMY**

Ref	Priority action	Lead Agency	Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 (1 Oct 22 – 31 Apr 23)	Status
2.1	Reduce the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).	Kent County Council	Local Children’s Partnership Group (LCPG) strategic event held focusing on local district NEET provision and how partners from The Education People (TEP), Open Access and SDC can collaborate to provide seamless transition and NEET support. TEP tasked to focus on improving access to employment and training opportunities for SEND young people. SDC is working with TEP to develop a Growth Gurus project in Swanley as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	
2.2	Support events and initiatives and assist job seekers.	DWP	<p>Hosted a ‘Mums into Business’ in partnership with WKHA and Better Together, providing an 8 week course for women to start their own business. The course ran at the Swanley Children Centre and gave women the opportunity to use Swanley Market to promote their business set ups.</p> <p>UKSPF &amp; REPF funding has been confirmed. Rural Officer recruitment (to deliver REPF funding) is underway and interviews taking place w/c 24.04.23. Projects under both funding streams are in development to support both Rural and Visitor Economy.</p>	

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**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

<p align="center">Page 17</p>	<p>2.3 Engage with and support the Visitor Economy and rural sectors, local food producers and the cultural community to ensure Sevenoaks District continues to grow as a leading visitor location with a growing number of jobs and enterprises in the sector.</p>	<p>Sevenoaks District Council</p>	<p>Sevenoaks So Much More campaign continues at pace with increased engagement across a variety of platforms. A Place related competition to win a hamper of goods from local producers was launched during September 2022. The campaign promoted many of the districts local businesses including local food producers.</p> <p>The associated social media accounts for the Place Campaign are proving to be very successful. As at July 2022, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn all had higher than average impressions / engagement rates.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council was interviewed (14/07/22) on BBC Radio Kent following the launch of the Place Campaign, highlighting the district as a place to Live, Work, Invest and Visit.</p> <p>Providing evidence and supporting comments in response to Planning Applications. Particularly those that facilitate jobs within the industry and relate to 'work' and 'invest' elements of the Place Campaign. Most recent example, Millwall Football Club</p>	
<p>2.4</p>	<p>Improve on the public realm to support multiple uses and better facilities.</p>	<p>Sevenoaks District Council</p>	<p>The Public Realm Commission delivered the following initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of the new skate park in Swanley</li> <li>• Public Realm project with schools in partnership with West Kent Partnership</li> <li>• Site walk abouts - understand the public realm and how it can be improved</li> </ul>	
<p>2.5</p>	<p>Work with the private sector to develop and promote business sites in the district.</p>	<p>Locate in Kent/Sevenoaks District Council</p>	<p>Locate in Kent continues to promote business sites and assist businesses to locate and relocate into the district.</p>	

**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 - 31 March 2023**

			The Meeting Point, a new business hub in the heart of Swanley has opened and provides flexible and shared office and meeting space for businesses in the District and has been really successful.	
2.6	Ensure businesses are able to access suitable business support to develop and grow business support to increase the resilience of businesses, including ecommerce and marketing.	Sevenoaks District Council	UKSPF investment programme prepared, approved and commenced with implementation. Smarter Society appointed to provide dedicated business support programme and commenced with business promotion. West Kent Partnership being refreshed to support inward investment. Business Hub set-up and preparing for launch.	
2.7	Continue to work with colleagues at Kent County Council, the private sector and communities to identify areas that need more investment or an upgrade in broadband to future proof and enable economic activity.	Kent County Council	No information recieved	

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**BETTER TOGETHER - OUR COMMUNITY**

Ref	Priority action	Lead Agency	Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 (1 Oct 22 - 31 March 23)	Status
3.1	Establish links with local residents, businesses and community organisations to help empower and mobilise communities to address issues important to them through events, training and links to funding	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>Better Together established the following activities:</p> <p>Let's Cook - online Healthy Cooking course. 5 week online course, to support families with school age children in order to improve food related health, tackle obesity and address health inequalities. The course are also aim to save money for families on the food budgets. All participants received a free slow cooker after the course.</p> <p>Silver Sunday. Silver Sunday Spectacular celebratory event took place on Tuesday 4th of October, with support from</p>	

Swanley Town Council and SDSAF at the Olympic centre, with 35 members of the public attending the event as well as 17 volunteers and partners. There were 6 stallholders at the event including Citizens Advice, Age UK, Reflexologist, One You, Kent Police, SDSAF and SDC. We also had local musicians playing and taster sessions with Swanley Bowls Club, petanque from Stuart Wells, arts and crafts from The Making Room and a Pop-Up Sue’s Larken mobility session.

We have had over 15 residents so far take advantage of our Free One-Day Pass at White Oak Leisure Centre. The pass gives residents aged 55+ complete access to explore the centre. Free or subsidised activities were running all throughout October such as walking netball, tai chi, bowls, afternoon tea dances and so much more. We are also still giving a special complimentary Silver Sunday day passes to WOLC for December weekend, for residents over 55s.

Back 2 Swim classes. We have set up a three FREE six-week swimming courses at Edenbridge, Sevenoaks and Swanley White Oaks Leisure Centres for women over 16. Brushed up on swimming skills with a qualified instructor in a small, female only group. 5 courses were delivered.

Community Mobilisation officer is working with steering group in Swanley on ‘Grow a Healthy Swanley’ initiative, supporting them with setting up as a legal entity, clarifying the objectives for the project and applying for external funding to jump start the project.

Free Postnatal Pilates Classes in Edenbridge.

Volunteer Fair at Stag Theatre. Working with IMAGO

**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

			Community to organise a Volunteer recruitment event in October to display various opportunities available and encourage more people to volunteer and learn new skills. Warm Spaces are safe and friendly public places where people of all ages can go to comfortably spend time reading, studying, chatting with others and meeting new people in their community. SDC is coordinating a local directory of all warm spaces in the district and encourage local businesses and organisations open their doors and support the most vulnerable residents in the district.	
3.2	Maintain the lower number of ASB incidents (no higher than 3 <sup>rd</sup> lowest in the county).	Kent Police	<p>Qtr 3 October – December 2022 There were 237 reports of ASB recorded reports for Sevenoaks District to Kent Police from 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022. This is a decrease of 73 reports (-23.5%) compared to same period previous year. Currently lowest across the County</p> <p>Qtr 4 There were 265 reports of ASB recorded reports for Sevenoaks District to Kent Police from 1 January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This is an increase of 28 reports (10.5%) compared to same period previous year. Currently 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest across the County</p>	
3.3	80% of Health and Wellbeing Action Plan on target, through the delivery of a range of campaigns to tackle unhealthy weights, promote social inclusion and mental wellness.	Sevenoaks District Council	The Health & Wellbeing Action Plan for Qtr 3 was at 90% and for Qtr 4 was at 96%. A new plan has been approved for 2023-24.	
3.4	Outcomes achieved on Sevenoaks District Local Children’s Partnership Action Plan, with at least 75% of core indicators on target.	Kent County Council	Priorities for the district agreed in October 2022 and action plan developed in consultation with LCPG partners. Task and finish groups to be established to support NEETs and ACEs priority areas.	

**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

3.5	Improve opportunities for vulnerable people through the Community Grant Scheme.	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>All grants have been completed for 22-23 and monitoring has been sent out and collated. The grants for 2023-24 will go out in September 2023.</p> <p>There were a number of new organisations that received funding this year, they received small grants to deliver new initiatives across the District.</p>	
3.6	Support the Sevenoaks District Access Group to deliver an annual event, promoting a range of information, advice and activities for people with a physical, learning or mental disability who may not be aware of the services that are available, or how to access them.	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>The Access Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis and meetings have included speakers to discuss access at Swanley Train Station and KCC representatives.</p> <p>Sevenoaks District Council's website page for Disability services and support was updated by the group.</p> <p>In February 2023, the Group hosted an Access All Areas event, with approximately 20+ stall holders representing organisations that help with families and residents with disabilities to give advice and service. Will Bayley MBE attended and spoke at the event.</p>	
3.7	Increased number of people supported to live independently.	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>The Better Care Fund for 22/23 has been fully committed, providing circa 250 DFG, AFG and S&amp;S Grants to enable residents to live independantly for longer by providing home adaptations and improvements.</p> <p>A joint project between SDC and WKHA at Vine Court Road is providing supported accommodation for residents who have become homeless and need support to transition into permanent accommodation.</p> <p>The Home Straight Service is working with 27 customers who have Hoarding Disorder and struggle to manage their home and possessions.</p>	

**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

		Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge	Age UK continue to deliver weekly strength, mobility and posture classes. Pop in tea/coffee mornings are held in Edenbridge, Chiddingstone Causeway, Cowden, Dunton Green, Crockenhill and Hextable.	
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**BETTER TOGETHER: OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Ref	Priority action	Lead Agency	Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 (1 Oct 22 – 31 March 23)	Status
4.1	Deliver on local and partnership Net Zero Policies and Climate Change Action Plan	Sevenoaks District Council	Progress has continued on the Action and Implementation Plan. Key recent updates include the Swanley AQMA assessment, the Vehicle Idling Campaign, and receipt of the draft Carbon Reduction Plan.	
4.2	Seek opportunities to work with our communities and partners to reduce the amount of household waste produced by increasing recycling and ensuring improved knowledge of our recycling processes.	Sevenoaks District Council	A number of County-wide and local recycling campaigns happened in Q4 in partnership with the Kent Resource Partnership. Also, the Green and garden waste services were again advertised in this quarter via social media, website and Insite magazine.	

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**Sevenoaks District Community Plan Monitoring 2022-25, Year 1 Qtr 3 & 4 1 Oct 2022 – 31 March 2023**

4.3	Ensure the design and location of new development takes account of the need to improve air quality through the Local Plan in line with Sevenoaks District Council's Air Quality Action Plan.	Sevenoaks District Council	The Environmental Health Team are working with the Planning Policy Team to develop new guidance on the implementation of conditions for developments in or adjacent to the air quality management areas.	
4.4	Work with partners and communities for all to become more energy efficient.	Sevenoaks District Council	<p>The first phase of the Home Upgrade Grant funding (HUG1) due to complete end May 2023 with 14 households being assisted with energy efficiency measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, solar panels and high retention storage heaters. One property is also receiving internal wall insulation. All properties benefiting from the measures are off the main gas grid.</p> <p>Funding for HUG2 has been awarded (£1,249,600) to provide up to 60 homes with energy efficiency improvements such as air source heat pumps, solar panels, external wall insulation, cavity wall and loft insulation over a 2 year period. Over 600 households in Sevenoaks have indicated an interest in Solar Together (Phase 3) (Bulk Buy Scheme managed by KCC).</p>	
4.5	Support Kent County Council's emerging Strategy for Electric Vehicle and Low Emissions, through the provision further public electric vehicle charging points in the district, subject to infrastructure.	Kent County Council	Work continues through KMEG and the Climate Change Network, and locally through our demand and provision study, led by Field Dynamics	
4.6	Weekly refuse collection maintained.	Sevenoaks District Council	Weekly waste and recycling collections have been maintained throughout this quarter.	<b>Green</b>

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## COMMUNITY GRANTS 2022/23 UPDATE

### People & Places Advisory Committee – 3 October 2023

**Report of:** Sarah Robson, Deputy Chief Executive, Chief Officer People & Places

**Status:** To Note

**Also considered by:**

Cabinet – 9 November 2023

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary** This report sets out monitoring information about the Community Grants delivered in 2022/23.

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** the Council's Community Plan.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Lesley Dyball

**Contact Officer(s):** Jenny Godfrey x7112; Kelly Webb, Ext. 7474

**Recommendation to People and Places Advisory Committee:**

That Members note this report.

**Recommendation to Cabinet:**

(a) That Members note this report.

**Reason for recommendation:** Projects, services and activities have been delivered as a result of the grants awarded under the Sevenoaks District Community Grants Scheme for 2022/23. This report provides feedback on the outcomes of these initiatives.

### Introduction and Background

1. The Council's Community Grant Scheme supports local charities and voluntary sector organisations that, through their work, contribute to the priorities set out in the Community Plan 2022-32.
2. For the 2022/23 period, 18 Community Grants were awarded totalling £49,800. Appendix A provides the full list of projects, services and activities funded.

## Agenda Item 7

3. Each Community Grant is awarded with a set of conditions which include the following for the charities and voluntary sector organisations to report back on:
  - Number of beneficiaries of the grant.
  - Number of volunteers used to deliver the project, service or activity.
  - Key Performance Indicator (KPI). Examples include: number of families benefiting from therapy; number of beneficiaries signposted to valuable information; number of beneficiaries reporting improved health and wellbeing; and; number of beneficiaries showing increased confidence.
  - Case Study demonstrating benefits of grant funding.
  - Description of any changes made when delivering the project, service or activity.
  - Any lessons learnt from the project, service or activity.
4. For all 18 grants awarded, 73% of the Key Performance Indicators were met or exceeded. This is below the target of 80%. Key reasons:
  - The KPI data return for one project was withdrawn as accurate data was unavailable. The project involved the design and creation of a specialist space targeted at a particular audience. This has been successfully achieved and the space is used and valued. A detailed case study and beneficiary feedback has however been provided and is included as part of Appendix B.
  - Volunteering issues – recruitment continues to be an issue and this affected the delivery of some of the projects, activities and services.
5. Appendix B includes example Case Studies from 2022/23. Two of these are included in the Council's September 'In Shape' Magazine to help promote the Community Grant Scheme.

### **Social Value Engine and its application to 2022/23 Community Grant monitoring**

6. In January 2023 using funding from the UK Prosperity Fund, the Council purchased licences to use 'the Social Value Engine' ('SVE') which has been jointly developed by Rose Regeneration and East Riding Council.
7. In addition to monitoring the tangible costs (i.e. funding, resourcing including number of volunteers required) and outputs (i.e. number of beneficiaries) for a project, service or activity, the SVE assists with quantifying the wider social, economic and environmental outcomes. Social Value asks the question 'if £x is spent on delivering a project, service or activity, what is the value of that same £x in terms of wider benefits for the local community?' Examples of social value might be the value community members experience from increasing their confidence or reducing their isolation; or it could be the value to an individual of feeling like they belong in their neighbourhood/community.
8. The SVE provides:

- A systemised and academically robust assessment of social value for you to forecast, plan and evaluate your activities.
  - More than 200 peer-reviewed financial proxies derived from reliable sources, which are regularly updated, including provision of a direct link to the academic paper or report of the source of the financial proxy.
  - A description of how a project creates value and a ratio that states how much social value (in £) is created for every £ of investment.
  - An overview of how your activities are making a place better to live in and more sustainable.
  - A PDF copy of the report generated by the engine.
  - A programme function that collates all your social value together to calculate your overall social value return.
9. The data and performance indicators from the 2022/23 Community Grants has formed part of the initial exploration of the SVE. The performance indicators have been used to begin creating a menu of KPIs for future Community Grants (see paragraphs 10 & 11). By way of example, the SVE has demonstrated that based on the value of volunteering alone (using SVE proxy 'value placed by a local authority on volunteering'), the Community Grants awarded in 2022/23 (using 34,629 hours) achieved a social return that exceeded the £49,800 investment after 2 months. This equates to:
- £458k Net Present Value (in this instance relates to: the return on the initial investment minus the £49,800 initial investment).
  - £9.21 per £1 Net Social Return on Investment (measures change in ways that are relevant to the people or organisations that experience or contribute to it. It tells the story of how change is being created by measuring social, environmental and economic outcomes and uses monetary values to represent them. So here, every £1 invested delivers the equivalent of £9.21 in social value. Social Value is a value rather than money. Money is simply a common unit and as such is a useful and widely accepted way of conveying value.)
10. Going forward, each grant awarded will have social return (using proxies most relevant to the individual projects, services and activities) measured against investment and this will form part of the monitoring and reporting process.
11. The SVE proxies are now being used to develop a menu of KPIs for applicants to choose from when applying for 2024/25 grant (applications open September 2023). These will form part of the conditions of grants and be used to monitor the outcomes. This approach is beneficial not only for streamlining the reporting and monitoring but also for sharing the outcomes in a quick, simple and effective way. The charities and voluntary sector organisations will also be able to use these outcomes for presenting to others including potential funders.
12. In addition, this menu of proxies is also going to form a list that other departments in the Council can select when using the SVE to monitor their projects, services and activities.

## Agenda Item 7

13. Further information on the SVE and proxies will be included in the report for recommended Community Grants for 2024/25 which is presented in early 2024.

### Key Implications

#### Financial

14. None.

#### Resources (Non Financial)

15. The work connected with the Community Grant Scheme administration and monitoring is being undertaken through existing resources.

#### Legal implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

16. There are no legal issues relating to this report. All organisations applying for and receiving funding are required to have an equalities policy (or have signed to say they will adhere to the District Council's policy) and where appropriate child protection and/or adult protection policies.
17. The following table shows the risks and their mitigation.

Risk	Mitigation
As a condition of the grant any organisation allocating onward funding on behalf of the Council to another organisation must check whether appropriate police checks and child or vulnerable adult protection policies are in place.	Condition of grant to ensure checks carried out and that application forms seek confirmation. Monitoring process confirms that an effective process is in place.
Grant allocations not spent in accordance with grant applications.	A monitoring process is in place to ensure grants are being spent in accordance with the grant applications made.

#### Equality Assessment

18. Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this report

directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people. The summary results of this analysis are set out immediately below.

<b>Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation / Evidence</b>
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	This community grant scheme assists with the provision of services to support Sevenoaks District residents, particularly those in the greatest need. Therefore this decision being made or recommended through this paper does not have the potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	The grant scheme provides funding for specific groups, such as older people, families, young people and people with disabilities. The grants scheme is widely publicised (and case studies of previously funded projects, activities and services included) to ensure that groups serving a wide range of needs are able to apply.
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		No negative impacts identified

### Net Zero Implications

19. The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

### **Conclusions**

20. The work of the voluntary sector across the Sevenoaks District is highly valued. The Council's grants programme supports the dedication and commitment of the many volunteers who help the most vulnerable people in the District. Members are asked to note this report.

## Agenda Item 7

### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Full list of projects, services and activities funded in 2022/23.

Appendix B – Example Case Studies from 2022/23 Community Grants.

**Sarah Robson**

**Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer People & Places**



Appendix A – Full list of projects, services and activities funded by Community Grants in 2022/23

Organisation Name	Title of project/service/activity	Description of project, service or activity	Grant awarded 2022/23
Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with Sevenoaks League of Friends at Sevenoaks Hospital	Vintage Convenience Store for patients with Dementia in Sevenoaks Community Hospital Wards	Funding is needed for transforming an old and tired day room into a vintage Convenience store containing a Post Office, sweets, newspapers, flowers, pillar box and a Fruit and Veg barrow. Also Dementia Software for aiding reminiscence, changes in the décor and items for sensory stimulation to touch, handle, smell and taste for rehabilitation.	£3,616.25
Baby Umbrella	Building support for early parenting wellbeing	Deepening support for parents' mental wellbeing. In a year where COVID has significantly impacted new parents, causing huge increases in postnatal depression, anxiety and birth trauma, parents are crying out for additional support.	£1,900.00
Swanley Scouts (Swanley District Scout Council)	Whole of District Adventurous Activities	Additional quality, exciting, age-appropriate adventurous activities, e.g. canoeing, kayaking, sailing, national Scout Fun days, and adventure centre / dry ski slope. As a youth-led organisation our young people will choose age appropriate activities.	£2,916.25

Appendix A – Full list of projects, services and activities funded by Community Grants in 2022/23

Organisation Name	Title of project/service/activity	Description of project, service or activity	Grant awarded 2022/23
The Lewis Project	The Lewis Project	The Lewis Project was set up to help mental wellbeing in young people aged 16 + through music. We provide a relaxed, non-intimidating atmosphere that encourages confidence, musical interest and creativity. We believe music is great therapy.	£1,000.00
Home-Start South West Kent (HSSWK)	Improve social inclusion of vulnerable families and children under five years.	HSSWK will support vulnerable families who are struggling to cope. We will recruit and train volunteers and match them with families. Volunteers will visit their families every week and offer practical and emotional support and signposting.	£875.00
Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	Contribution to running costs	The grant will be used to defray the running costs of SVTG which provides low cost transport for elderly, infirm and disabled residents to Sevenoaks Hospital, other local hospitals and clinics and organisations for the disabled.	£500.00

Appendix A – Full list of projects, services and activities funded by Community Grants in 2022/23

Organisation Name	Title of project/service/activity	Description of project, service or activity	Grant awarded 2022/23
PMRGCAuk (Polymyalgia Rheumatica & Giant Cell Arteritis UK)	PMRGCA Sevenoaks Support Group	We want to set up a Support Group in Sevenoaks district for older people who suffer from PMR &/or GCA. PMR is an inflammatory condition of unknown cause. It is recognised to be an autoimmune illness. GCA is a disease known as 'giant cell' because of the presence of very large inflammatory cells in the wall of the arteries, causing them to swell and sometimes become occluded. The group will meet monthly in a safe venue to meet fellow sufferers, get support & information and at times listen to expert speakers in PMR/GCA.	£1,400.00
West Kent Mediation	Conflict Resolution service for SDC residents	West Kent Mediation (WKM) provide a professional, impartial and free mediation service using dedicated, trained volunteers to help resolve conflict and the breakdown of relationships between individuals, families and groups in the SDC area	£5,000.00

Appendix A – Full list of projects, services and activities funded by Community Grants in 2022/23

Organisation Name	Title of project/service/activity	Description of project, service or activity	Grant awarded 2022/23
North Kent Mind	Wellbeing Activity Group	A weekly session that combines open discussion and exercise giving the perfect opportunity for those with Mental Health issues to engage with other people in a fun active way (incl badminton, table tennis, short mat bowls & basic gym activities).	£390.00
Protection Against Stalking	Core Running Costs - Protection Against Stalking Sevenoaks District	PAS runs a specialist advocacy service in Kent for victims of stalking. We seek funding to help us expand our volunteer-led service in Sevenoaks contributing to community safety & wellbeing, & enabling us to support people at risk & their families	£4,680.00
BRIDGES	Post-Covid Revival Projects	New partnership projects addressing social isolation, money issues, kids catch-up club, art therapy. Staff to recruit, train & support volunteers & pros to run the projects, community networking, signposting new residents, responding to local needs.	£2,740.00
The Hygiene Bank	Improving distribution to expand our reach across Sevenoaks.	Purchase more essential hygiene products to distribute to new and existing community partners (CPs) in Sevenoaks. Continue the lease of our storage space which is used to organise and sort these products.	£3,916.25

Appendix A – Full list of projects, services and activities funded by Community Grants in 2022/23

Organisation Name	Title of project/service/activity	Description of project, service or activity	Grant awarded 2022/23
Sevenoaks Counselling	To increase the size of the Bursary Fund.	Assistance for clients unable to pay the full recommended contribution for counselling.	£1,200.00
Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge	Pop Up Pop Ins	The Pop Ups are hubs to encourage social interaction, reduce isolation & support older people in rural areas. They provide exercise aimed at improving mobility & strength, reducing the no. of falls, improving health & wellbeing of the older people.	£5,000.00
Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services (DAVSS)	Supporting Sevenoaks residents experiencing domestic abuse	DAVSS provides vital volunteer support services for often traumatised victims of domestic abuse and their children, empowering them to break the cycle of abuse so they and their children can live safe and fulfilling lives again.	£5,000.00
Kenward Trust	Trainee Youth Outreach Worker	Our outreach provides a responsive service with targeted intervention responding to alerts where substances are considered a factor. This grant would help us employ a trainee Youth Outreach Worker to support our team and reach more individuals.	£4,666.25

Appendix A – Full list of projects, services and activities funded by Community Grants in 2022/23

Organisation Name	Title of project/service/activity	Description of project, service or activity	Grant awarded 2022/23
Imago	Imago Community Services	Imago’s accredited volunteering service helps people to volunteer. We also offer an information, advice and development service for organisations. Finally, the project will help to address social isolation by expanding our transport service.	£3,500.00
Project Salus	Safety in Action	This is an interactive multi agency event that invites Yr 6 children to learn about the dangers they may face as they prepare for transition to secondary school. The event is designed to develop citizenship, safety skills and to increase awareness.	£1,500.00
			£49,800.00

#### **Home Start**

A mum with 6 month old multiple birth babies, living in temporary accommodation, was referred to us by an Early Help worker. The family had recently been housed and were unfamiliar with the area, and struggling to manage in one room accommodation. We were able to refer the family to another charity for help with baby toys and equipment, and have matched them with a volunteer who visits weekly and offers practical support to the mum to get down the stairs with the babies. They sometimes go to a coffee shop, and the volunteer has reported an improvement in the babies' social development simply by getting out of the flat. They now looks at books and smile and interact with the volunteer and other people. We are trying to enable mum to get the bus to a local group and have been able to loan her a chromebook, as part of our partnership with BT, to help her with her housing application.

#### **Age UK**

Mr L from Sevenoaks lost his wife suddenly last year.

They had both been previously attending my classes together and had started to make some new friends and improve their mobility and Mr L has mobility problems and a heart condition.

I stayed in touch with him over the phone to check on how he was and when he needed help regarding forms and paperwork, I referred him to our Information and Advice Team to help as he was upset, confused and worried about finances as well as grieving for his wife.

We were able to help him and he has since come back to my class which has helped him to start to socialise and talk with other people in the group. He has also since baked cakes for the group as he used to be a baker before he retired.

It is good to see him back interacting, smiling and enjoying the company, after such a difficult time. He has recently started to speaking with another man in the group who has just lost his wife to cancer and good to see the men in the group supporting each other.

The class has helped him mentally and physically in this difficult time.

#### **Protection Against Stalking**

Sarah had been in a relationship with Harry for nearly 8 years. They have 2 children together aged 4 and 6 years. When referred to PAS, Sarah and Harry had been separated for about 4 months.

Sarah reported Harry had been controlling throughout their relationship, always checking where she was and looking through her phone. Harry apparently openly admitted checking her social media and Instagram to make sure she was not contacting any men. Whenever she went out Sarah would need to text Harry frequently to tell him where she was and he would check the accuracy of this when she returned. Eventually she would text him without thinking to keep him happy.

Throughout the relationship Harry would threaten to commit suicide if Sarah spoke about leaving and Sarah always placated him.

Eventually she plucked up the courage to end the relationship, Harry agreed and moved out. Arrangements were made for child contact. Despite being separated Harry would text Sarah many times each day. If he didn't get a reply within a certain period he would be seen walking past her house to see if her car was there.

## Agenda Item 7

### Appendix B – Example Case Studies from 2022/23 Community Grants

A couple of months later Sarah was asleep in her bedroom around 2:30am, her two children were in the bed with her when she became aware of someone crawling along the floor towards her bed, she could see a silhouette in the darkness. She screamed, jumped out of bed and Harry got up saying, "it's me, it's me!". She continued screaming for him to leave which he eventually did. The impact this had on her mental health cannot be underestimated. It later became clear Harry had been in the property for some time because he questioned her on new clothing she had bought. Harry no longer lived in the property and did not have keys. Sarah believes she may have inadvertently left the back door open that night, but also believes it wasn't the first time he had tried the doors at night. A friend had told her she had seen Harry around the property at night.

Two months later Sarah got into her car and realised Harry's mobile phone was connected to her car Bluetooth when his music started playing. She panicked again because she realised he must be close.

Sarah eventually got the courage to report what had been happening to her housing association and later to the police who arrested Harry. He admitted his behaviour and is currently on bail.

Sarah was referred to the cyberstalking clinic who worked with her to ensure all her electrical devices were secure and she had the confidence to use them. PAS liaised with KFRS and Victim Support to obtain home security items for Sarah, including motion sensitive lighting and alarm system. The PAS caseworker continues to support Sarah as she waits for the court case and a house move. She has explained the court process and stalking protection orders (SPO). An application for an SPO is now being made. Assistance has been given to support Sarah's application for a house move. Child contact with Harry has now been arranged with Sarah's parents

This case is ongoing, the caseworker is in regular contact with Sarah who is grateful for the support she has received from the Cyber Helpline and PAS.

### **Vintage Convenience Store for patients with Dementia in Sevenoaks Community Hospital Wards**

Sevenoaks Emporium was a day room that was rarely used by patients. The plans were to transform this space into a welcoming place for patients during their stay, somewhere away from the bed spaces where visitors could meet patients and a space that staff could better use to promote wellbeing and rehabilitation, and this is where the transformation began.

Patients living with Dementia would often share that 'when you think of a traditional sweet shop, what comes to mind? Memories of running to your local one after school with pocket money from your parents, hoping to get your favourite sweets, this will reignite your memories, get your taste buds tingling and make the experience truly enjoyable searching for your favourite choices of sweets'

A mural was installed across the outside of the new room, linking it to the existing bus stop along with shop canopies and a flag sign to help people locate it from down the corridor.

A lockable wall-mounted cupboard, with safe polycarbonate doors and sweet jars with bespoke labelling, the old-fashioned serving counter was made safe for use, again by replacing the glass doors and shelving with polycarbonate alternatives and adding a fixed side and a drop-down countertop with additional front to extend the serving counter and prevent patients from accessing behind the counter. The old-fashioned till, weighing sales and a traditional bell were placed on the counter, the jars were filled with sweets and the shop was ready for use.



Appendix B – Example Case Studies from 2022/23 Community Grants

To compliment the Room and add to the experiences for patients, a market barrow was installed and is used as a fruit stall with frit delivered daily from the kitchen for the patients' health and nutrition.

The reminiscence Sensory / rummage Boxes are removable and used for activities at the table when required, most of the time they are on the wall and add interest to the shop. There are 3 boxes, each aimed at men, women and children. The Man containing original 1950's Practical Mechanics magazines, the Woman containing fabrics and materials from silk, wool, velvet, cotton and a Children's container comprising of vintage antique toys. Along with a smaller bookcase and shelf over the existing radiator, having original tins, boxes and memorabilia to promote a Convenience Store feel, this area has been transformed into a brilliant interactive space suitable for everyone

There is also a Record Player and a selection of Records, all donated and also memorabilia of books, newspapers and ration books to add to the vintage theme.

Dementia Software is shown on the TV called Ad-Memoire, accessing thousands of original show reels and adverts with added activities and promotes interaction and engagement.



(Before)



(Before)

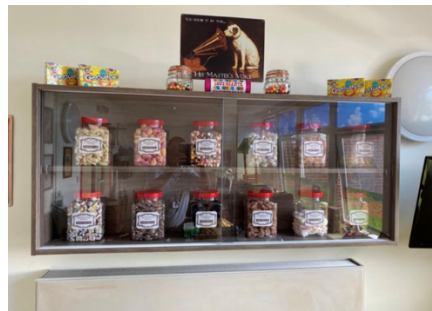
(Before)



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### Appendix B – Example Case Studies from 2022/23 Community Grants

(After)



Kim, the Therapeutic Worker and Sharon, the Dementia Link Worker have patients in the room everyday watching old original Show reels from the Ad-Memoire Dementia Software, listening to Music on the Vintage Record Player, providing sweets to patients, following a detailed Risk Assessment.

They also promote sensory stimulation, purposeful activity and reminiscence Therapy to all the patients living with Dementia or an un-diagnosed Dementia.

It is regularly used by staff, volunteers, relatives, families and Children too, with donations for the sweets returning to the League of Friends.

The room is also used by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for their patients who have experienced a Stroke and are at Sevenoaks Community Hospital for their Stroke Rehabilitation Pathway, and Family Meetings.



Left to right – Kim (Therapeutic Worker), Jennifer, Pat, Grahame (Specialist Nurse for Dementia) and Jeanette

*Consent obtained from the patients for this report*

The above patients, who all live in the Borough of Sevenoaks, have developed a close friendship from meeting in the Emporium, having meals and afternoon tea and cakes in there. They have thoroughly enjoyed being in this room, also tasting the sweets and enjoying the reminiscence materials, sharing stories and nostalgia. This room and facility have helped their mental health and well-being and also enabled them to befriend each other and also, they have continued their friendship upon discharge home.

The Sevenoaks Emporium has been and will continue to be a great success. With the Sweet Shop offering sweets with the nostalgic smell, tastes and texture which are a sensory stimulation and provides reminiscence and nostalgia for the patients with dementia and also for the Stroke patients there. The Sevenoaks Emporium will allow patients, their visitors and relatives and grandchildren to also sit at and share their wonderful vintage stories of sweets and confectionary.

### **Sevenoaks Counselling**

Henry is a 14-year-old young man who was struggling with anxiety particularly at school.

He had a diagnosis of Asperger's and found unfamiliar situations particularly difficult. His school attendance had fallen, and he was having angry outbursts at home.

He had already received 6 sessions of counselling at school which he found helpful, and he wanted to have more sessions to work on the roots of his anxiety and strategies to cope with difficult situations.

He attended regularly for several months working to identify the situations he found particularly difficult and to develop strategies to manage these. He found having open-ended counselling very helpful and said while the counselling at school had been helpful, not having the pressure of a limited number of sessions meant that he was more relaxed in sessions than with the set number of sessions at school. Over time he began to recognise early signs he was feeling agitated, to identify common triggers for this and to better manage his anger. He



## Agenda Item 7

### Appendix B – Example Case Studies from 2022/23 Community Grants

began to develop self-soothing skills and to manage his anxiety particularly around attending school.

When his counselling ended both Henry and his mum reported that he was more willing to attend school, that his levels of anxiety were significantly lower and that he felt better able to cope with stressful situations. The angry outbursts at home were infrequent and he felt his relationship with his older sibling had improved.

#### **Swanley Scouts**

Swanley Scouts applied for a grant for the first time in 2022 and received £2,916.25 for adventurous activities and trips

This money allowed the Scout leaders to offer a wide range of activities to young people that included hiring a swimming pool for a swimming badge session, a trip to Chatham dockyards, helping Explorer Scouts attend the week-long Kent International Jamboree and lots more! Many families in the area would not be able to afford these trips if it wasn't for the grant funding.

Trustee of Swanley Scouts, Frances Wallace adds: "Thank you so much for helping us offer these activities to local children. They were thoroughly enjoyed and gave our members a chance to try new things and learn skills for life. It also had a huge positive impact on the wellbeing, achievement, confidence and resilience for hundreds of young people and their families."



**COMMUNITY MOBILISATION UPDATE**

**Committee – PEOPLE & PLACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2023**

**Report of:** Chief Officer People & Places

**Status:** For Comment

**Also considered by:**

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary:** This report and presentation on the community mobilisation work that has been carried out across the District.

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** Council Plan

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Lesley Dyball

**Contact Officer(s):** Kelly Webb, Ext. 7474 & Yulia La-Kruz Ext 7149

**Recommendation to People & Places Advisory Committee**

To consider the update of the Community Mobilisation work.

**Reason for recommendation:**

To keep Members updated on the work of Community Mobilisation in the District.

## Agenda Item 8

### Introduction and Background

- 1 Through KCC Helping Hands funding we received £50,100 for a full time post to deliver Community Mobilisation for 15 months.
- 2 Yulia La-Kruz was seconded to this position and started in April 2022 to 30 June 2023. We were then successful in the UK Prosperity Fund to keep this post until 31 March 2025
- 3 Through Portfolio Holder briefings we engaged with how members and the Leader of the Council envisaged for this role, to help the community to help them themselves
- 4 Our main aims for this work were to
  - Have an online Community Platform
  - Gain more volunteers
  - Help the community deliver local projects
  - Help the community get connected
- 5 Over the past 15 months, as part of Better Together we have collaborated and spoken with many local people to understand what actions and activities people want to undertake in and for their community and how the wider community could be involved. These valuable conversations, alongside seed-funding and project support, will now be reviewed and developed into a focused strategy and action plan that we hope will, over the next few years, result in stronger, more mobilised and engaged residents within local communities.
- 6 When communities come together, they have the power to do extraordinary things. Better Together builds on the 'hands on' projects that people created during the pandemic in their own neighbourhoods and is helping to:
  - Provide practical support, skills development, networking and capacity building to individuals and new/existing community groups to enable new initiatives and groups.
  - Develop physical community hubs and an online community portal.
  - Provide an online local directory of services and community toolkit
  - Help and improve the number volunteers in the District.
  - All this information can be found on [www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk](http://www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk)
- 7 In partnership with IMAGO, Better Together has organised and hosted a calendar of Volunteer Fairs across the District. On average we have had:
  - Nearly 80 visitors attend each event
  - Over 45 stallholders in attendance.
  - Provided support and advice
  - Recruited in excess of 200 volunteers recruited to local organisations across the District

- Recruited 3 volunteers for Better Together
  - More Volunteer Fairs organised for 2023/24
- 8 We have run projects such as Lets Cook, Shed Project, Grow a Healthy Swanley and recruited a young volunteer
- 9 We launched the Community Mobilisation Grants in March 2023 and will be in place until end 2025 as part of UKSPF funding. It supports individuals and new/existing community groups by enabling practical support, such as skills development and capacity building, alongside local activities and events.
- 10 The grants are split into 2 groups
- Up to £1k revenue funding**
- Supporting community-led projects addressing local priorities, ideas and fostering a sense of local pride
  - Over 30 applications received, with 15 projects funded from Round 1.
- Up to £500 support grants**
- Consultancy support in partnership with NCVO providing help with setting up a new voluntary or community group, guidance in setting up a constitution, membership, accounts, policies and training support.
- 11 There are a number of initiatives coming up over the future
- Communications Plan / promote online Community Hub
  - Community Mobilisation Grants 23/24 & 24/25
  - Growth Gurus community hub project in Swanley
  - Employment and skills sharing support hubs
  - Better Together community volunteering and mentoring programmes
  - Pop Up Better Together hubs established in rural areas
  - Community survey – empowering communities
  - Staff Ideas – action the delivery plan
  - Cost of Living resident events and support to set up groups and activities
  - Support for people with disabilities to establish networks and pursue projects.
  - Listening events with Silver Sunday network to harness ideas and support people as they come together to organise activities
  - Evaluate Hello Lamppost pilot
  - Funding Information Fairs - 28 September, Rickards Hall; Edenbridge and 4 October, Fawkham and Hartley
- Volunteer Recruitment Fairs

### Other options Considered and/or rejected

### Key Implications

#### Financial

None

## Agenda Item 8

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### Equality Assessment

There are no negative impacts – the annual report applies to all.

### Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment]

### Community Impact and Outcomes

Community Mobilisation is based upon the actions delivered by Sevenoaks District Council, partner agencies and other stakeholders. It also reflects community needs identified through local data.

## Conclusions

1 This presentation highlights the work of the Community Mobilisation Officer

### **Appendices**

### **Background Papers**

Name and title of chief office in Bold i.e.

**Sarah Robson**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer – People & Places**



**CARE LEAVERS SUPPORT**

**PEOPLE & PLACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 3 October 2023**

**Report of:** Sarah Robson, Chief Officer – People and Places

**Status:** For Decision

**Also considered by:**

- CABINET, 9 November 2023

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary:** This report outlines the statutory corporate parenting responsibilities and funding arrangements for care leavers under Kent County Council, whilst outlining the support provided through Sevenoaks District Council to its customers, including care leavers.

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** the Housing Strategy and Community Plan.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Lesley Dyball

**Contact Officer(s):** Sarah Robson and Kelly Webb, Ext. 7219

**Recommendation to People and Places Advisory Committee**

- (a) To note the statutory corporate responsibility and associated Government funding assigned to Kent County Council to support care leavers.
- (b) To note that to date the Care Leaver Covenant has been signed up to by councils with a statutory responsibility and associated funding for children's services and care leavers.
- (c) To acknowledge the support provided by Sevenoaks District Council to its customers, including care leavers, through existing service provision and resources.
- (d) To note the report, making a recommendation to Cabinet as to whether the Council should become a formal signatory of the Care Leaver Charter, noting that there are risks and resource implications (staffing and budget) to the Council in meeting the Charter's five pledges.

### Recommendation to Cabinet

- (a) To note the statutory corporate responsibility and associated Government funding assigned to Kent County Council to support care leavers.
- (b) To note that to date the Care Leaver Covenant has been signed up to by councils with a statutory responsibility and associated funding for children's services and care leavers.
- (c) To acknowledge the support provided by Sevenoaks District Council to its customers, including care leavers, through existing service provision and resources.
- (d) To consider whether the Council should become a formal signatory of the Care Leaver Charter, noting that there are risks and resource implications (staffing and budget) to the Council in meeting the Charter's five pledges.

**Reason for recommendation:** The number of care leavers supported by KCC, as corporate parent, is relatively small in Sevenoaks District (14), compared to the rest of Kent. This report seeks to reassure members that Sevenoaks District Council has in place support for customers across different customer groups, including care leavers. The Council's approach to supporting customers, including care leavers, continues to be one that is based on partnership working, taking action, promoting opportunities and raising awareness.

### Introduction and Background

- 1 When a child comes into care in Kent (excluding Medway), Kent County Council becomes the Corporate Parent. The term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of Kent County Council (KCC), its elected members, and employees, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by them.
- 2 KCC has a legal obligation to support young people making the transition from care to independence.
- 3 To meet their legal obligations, KCC's gross annual revenue budget for children's services in Kent is in excess of £23 million to support care leavers, asylum seekers aged 18 and safeguarding. Government Core Grant Funding is allocated annually by Government to KCC support Children's Social Care.
- 4 When a child leaves care to become independent and they are aged between 16 and 21 (or up to 25 in certain circumstances), KCC will support them through their local offer.
- 5 KCC's 'local offer' for care leavers (see Appendix 1) assists young people to understand what they are entitled to and what KCC will expect from them. This assists care leavers in making the most out of KCC's services that are available to them and make the most of their independence. KCC's local offer is available to all eligible care leavers (see Appendix 1), including:

- eligible young people aged 16 or 17 who have been looked after for a period or periods of time, start care after the age of 14, or are still in care
  - relevant young people aged 16 or 17 who are no longer looked after, having previously been in a category of eligible young person
  - former relevant young people aged 18 to 25 who have left care having previously either been eligible or relevant or both.
- 6 As Corporate Parent, KCC has a statutory duty to make a care leaver feel safe and supported and know how to get the advice and services needed. The support covers a range of areas including accommodation, money, health and wellbeing, housing, leisure, education, training and employment. As part of its care leavers offer, all KCC's departments are expected to recognise their role as a corporate parent and support the following principles:
- To act in the best interest and promote the physical, mental health and wellbeing of those children and young adults.
  - To encourage those children and young adults to express their views, wishes and feelings.
  - To consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young adults.
  - To help those children and young adults to gain access to, and make the best use of, the 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 adults.
  - To ensure those children and young adults are safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and/or workplace.
  - To prepare those children and young adults for adulthood and independent living.
- 7 Care leavers are entitled to this support up to the age of 21 (or longer, if they are in full-time education); if they've been cared for 13 weeks from the age of 14, and; for at least a day following your 16th birthday. This makes them a 'Relevant Child'.
- 8 KCC can support move-on accommodation such as supported accommodation, shared houses, studios or flats, private renting, social renting, or student accommodation if a care leaver intends to go on to University.
- 9 As at 31 March 2023, there were a total of 1,943 Care Leavers supported by the Kent County Council, including those residing outside of Kent.
- 10 Sevenoaks District has the lowest number of care leavers, 14, (see table below), being supported by Kent County Council, compared to Canterbury, which has the highest, 285. Please see Appendix 2 for further information on care leavers being supported by KCC across Kent.

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Number of care leavers supported by Kent County Council in Sevenoaks District	
<b>Total Care Leavers</b>	<b>14</b>
Former Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	2
Citizen	12
Currently identify as female	8
Currently identify as male	6
Aged 18-20 years	9
Aged 21-25 year:	5
Considered disabled	5

### How does Sevenoaks District Council support care leavers

- 11 Sevenoaks District Council does not have KCC's statutory footing for children's services and care leavers. Therefore, it does not receive any Government funding for these responsibilities. However, the Council does provide tailored and bespoke support for customers, including care leavers.
- 12 In terms of customer demand, in 2022-23 the Council was approached by two customers who identified as care leavers. Since April 2023, it has been approached by one care leaver requesting support with housing and benefits advice via our HERO team.
- 13 In comparison, in the four months since April 2023, the Council's Housing team has been approached by 452 customers requiring support related domestic abuse, relationship breakdown, eviction from private rented accommodation and rough sleepers.
- 14 The number of current care leavers is relatively small (14) in Sevenoaks District compared to the rest of Kent, however, support and information is available. Alongside the statutory support provided by KCC, the District Council's website promotes details of the additional support available to care leavers including:
  - 15 **HERO** – Our HERO team acts as a single point of contact for care leavers aged 18 years and over. Through HERO, care leavers can access personalised advice and guidance on a range of issues including debt or money advice, housing issues and welfare benefits. They can also provide direct referrals to appropriate partners, agencies or community groups for ongoing support e.g. foodbank provision, health and wellbeing support.
  - 16 **Housing** - we know that having housing issues is very upsetting and difficult for anyone. Care leavers need a clear understanding of the housing options available to them. KCC has a duty via a Social Worker or Personal Advisor service to provide support and help care leavers understand some of the housing terms being used, the likelihood of getting your own accommodation or having to go into shared accommodation.

We recommend a care leaver obtains an independent advocate, usually via the Young Lives Foundation, to help them express their views and wishes, and help them stand up for their rights. The foundation is an award winning independent children's charity with expertise in advocacy, mentoring and befriending.

In 2022, the Council approved a refresh of its Housing Allocation Policy (which allocates social housing in the District). The refresh includes supporting young people in care accommodation and considered ready to move out of care and those who are threatened with homelessness.

Where customers, including care leavers, present as homeless, as part of their Personal Housing Plan, the Council can provide financial support for securing private rented accommodation in shared accommodation, including rent in advance and rent deposit.

The monthly Housing and Communities Hub held at the Argyle Road office in partnership with organisations including Citizens Advice, Mind, Porchlight, JobCentre Plus and West Kent Housing, includes themed sessions for young people, including care leavers.

- 17 **Leisure** – the Council's leisure centre's located in Edenbridge, Sevenoaks and Swanley. Our leisure operator offers concessionary membership rates, including care leavers, subject to eligibility.
- 18 **Employment** – Working for a Council is a great way to contribute to the local community, providing the opportunity to develop skills, progress a career and make a difference in people's lives. Current vacancies for Sevenoaks District Council are advertised on its website, with information shared with KCC, including work experience and apprenticeship opportunities. The Council's Health and Communities team has been working with HR to bring forward a guaranteed interviews process, including care leavers, when applying to work for the Council, as long as the applicants can evidence that they meet the essential criteria for the role.
- 19 **Accessibility** – The Council ensures access to interpreters as standard, when language is a barrier to engaging with Council services. This is provided through its annual subscription to Language Line, providing an online, face to face and telephone interpreter service.
- 20 **Mentoring scheme for young people** – children in care aged 11 to 18, living or attending a school in the Sevenoaks District, can access the Council's mentoring scheme. Those who join can engage with an adult mentor, get involved in activities, and, where needed, access mental health support, including counselling. Details of the scheme are promoted to schools and KCC's Local Children's Partnership Group.
- 21 **Community support:** The Council also promotes organisations operating in the District who can support Care Leavers, including:
  - [Coram Voice](#) helps care leavers figure out their rights and entitlements as a Care Leaver. They also have other advice and information.

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- [Catch22](#) provides the national advice, support and development service focusing on young people's transition from care.
- [Become](#) provides help, support and advice to children in care and young care leavers.
- [Learner Support](#) provides help for 19 year olds or over who are having trouble with meeting the costs of participating in further education at college.
- The [Care Leavers' Association](#), a national charity run by care leavers offering support and advice.
- [Turn2Us](#) provides information on whether care leavers can claim benefits (e.g. income support and housing benefit) if you are a care leaver aged over 18 years.

### Care Leavers Covenant

- 22 The Care Leaver Covenant is funded and managed by the Department for Education. They have a non-binding Advisory Board and a non-binding Business Council.
- 23 The Covenant is a promise made by the private, public and voluntary sectors to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them to live independently.
- 24 The Covenant consists of five pledges:
1. Independent Living
  2. Education, Employment & Training
  3. Safety & Security
  4. Mental & Physical Health
  5. Finance
- 25 National businesses have signed up to the Charter, for example, Metro Bank is encouraging care leavers to bank with them by simplifying the ID and verification required to open an account by accepting a letter from the Corporate Parent as proof; Penna Recruitment agency offers CV support and careers advice; and, UCAS helps care leavers with understanding how to make a university application. In general, these have no cost or resource obligations to the signatories.
- 26 The Covenant has been signed up to by county, unitary and city councils with a statutory responsibility for children's services and care leavers, notably as they have direct responsibility, staffing, budget and funding resources to deliver on the five pledges listed above.
- 27 There are currently no councils signed up to the covenant, where they do not have statutory responsibility for children's services and care leavers.
- 28 KCC has responsibility for one of the largest care leaver populations in the country. In 2022, it was proposed for KCC to become signatory of the Covenant. As part of this process, the 18+ Care Leavers Service sought the views of their Young Adult Council and Corporate Parenting Panel, who were in support of this. In June 2023, KCC's Cabinet approved for the Council to

become a signatory, agreeing to take a 'whole council approach' in supporting the needs and progress of the young adults they are a Corporate Parent for. This means the whole of KCC will accept responsibility for its support provided to the young adults it has a legal duty to support as Care Leavers.

- 29 However, despite signing up to the Care Leaver Covenant, KCC is currently in the process of progressing the tender of its supported accommodation contract for care leavers (general citizens and unaccompanied asylum seeking children - UASC).
- 30 At present, young people are supported by KCC up to 21 years (25 in some cases). However, in their current proposal, KCC is suggesting this will end on a care leaver's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday based on the following rationale:
- to make budget efficiencies.
  - it does not have responsibility for UASC in care post 18-years with no recourse to public funds. It should be noted that under Government legislation, neither do district and borough councils.
  - young people are choosing to stay in KCC's supported accommodation longer than needed.
- 31 This will mean that any care leaver reaching the age of 19, could potentially be served with an eviction notice by KCC.
- 32 As a strategic proposal that will substantially impact district councils, their services and budgets. There is clearly disappointment from all councils in Kent that KCC's approach would mean care leavers reaching 19, would effectively be made homeless and would need to approach local housing authorities, being likely be placed in temporary accommodation (often outside of the locality), whilst affordable shared accommodation is sought.
- 33 This is of particular concern if a care leaver loses their 'care leaver status' and the support package they are eligible for under KCC.

#### **Other options Considered and/or rejected**

- 34 The Council has no statutory obligation or funding to resource and provide a care leavers service in the District. This obligations sits with KCC as corporate parent. However, it should be recognised that Sevenoaks District Council does have in place support for customers across different customer groups, including care leavers. The Council's approach to supporting customers, continues to be one that is based on partnership working, taking action, promoting opportunities and raising awareness.
- 35 Sevenoaks District Council could chose to sign up for the Care Leavers Covenant, but a key concern and risk is that by being the only District Council signatory in Kent, such a commitment could present a significant resource burden (both staffing and budgetary) on our Council, with care leavers from across Kent being signposted into the Sevenoaks District. This would likely reduce and detract from the meaningful support we currently have in place for care leavers. This risk is heightened in light of KCC's significant budget

## Agenda Item 9

pressures and efficiency proposals, which includes services being reduced or removed.

- 36 Potential cost pressures being transferred from KCC to district councils is of considerable concern, notably in light of the substantial budget savings being proposed to KCC's services to meet their budget gap, all of which will have knock on effects on Sevenoaks District's residents, alongside increased pressure and demand on our services and budgets. For example, KCC is proposing to reduce its community wardens service by 50% over the next two years, whilst KCC's youth provision may be significantly reduced as part of its Family Hub proposals. Such reductions play a part in the health and wellbeing of our local communities, whilst pushing that demand to the District Council.

### Key Implications

#### Financial

Sevenoaks District Council does not have a statutory responsibility for Care Leavers, i.e. it is not the Corporate Parent. KCC has this responsibility in Kent and accordingly receives Government Core Grant Funding provided annually by Government to support Children's Social Care.

Although the number of care leavers supported by KCC is relatively small in Sevenoaks District compared to the rest of Kent, if Sevenoaks District Council chose to sign up for the Care Leavers Covenant, being the only district council signatory in Kent, such a commitment is likely to present a significant resource burden (both staffing and financial) on our Council, with care leavers from across Kent being signposted into the Sevenoaks District.

This risk is heightened in light of KCC's significant budget pressures and efficiency proposals, which includes services being reduced or removed. Potential cost pressures being transferred from KCC to district councils is therefore of considerable concern.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

When a child comes into care in Kent (excluding Medway), Kent County Council becomes the Corporate Parent. The term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of Kent County Council (KCC), its elected members, and employees, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by them. KCC has a legal obligation to support young people making the transition from care to independence.

Sevenoaks District Council has no legal corporate parenting obligation to care leavers.

As highlighted in the report, committing the Council to the Covenant could have significant resource implications, both in terms of its budget and demand on services and staff, as care leavers from across Kent are likely to be signposted into the Sevenoaks District, citing our pledge to meet the five pledges. Customers often do not distinguish between the county council and district council responsibilities, which may only further be blurred by a commitment to the Covenant.



### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

### Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

### **Conclusions**

This report has been provided to distinguish the statutory corporate parenting responsibilities for care leavers under by Kent County Council, whilst outlining the support provided through Sevenoaks District Council to its customers, including care leavers.

The report aims to demonstrate members that there is support is available to our customers, including care leavers.

It is careful to set out the rationale and positive principles behind the Care Leaver Covenant, whilst setting out the risks, in terms of resources and increased demand to the District Council, notably in light of the significant budget savings required from KCC over the next few years. Customers often do not distinguish between the county council and district council responsibilities, which may only further be blurred by a commitment to the Covenant.

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – App 1 KCC care leavers offer
- Appendix 2 – Breakdown of care leavers in Kent by district

#### **Background Papers**

- Sevenoaks District Council website:  
[https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20002/your\\_environment\\_and\\_community/736/care\\_leavers](https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20002/your_environment_and_community/736/care_leavers)
- Young Lives Foundation website: Young Lives Foundation

**Sarah Robson**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer – People and Places**

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# OUR LOCAL OFFER TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE CARE LEAVERS

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This is our offer to you, so you know what to expect and what help and guidance we will support you with throughout your journey from care to adulthood



2020 - 2023  
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
18+ Care Leavers Service  
November 2020 V2



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## An introduction to our Local Offer and 18+ Care Leavers Service

### What our Local Offer is to you

All Local Authorities have a legal obligation to support young people making the transition from care to independence. It is Kent County Council's responsibility to ensure that you know what services are available to you and what you can expect to receive whilst you are in care.

### Eligible Young People

Eligible young people are aged 16 or 17, have been **looked after** for a period or periods totalling at least 13 weeks starting after their 14th birthday and are still in care. (This total does not include a series of pre-planned short-term placements of up to four weeks where the child has returned to the parent). There is a duty to support these young people up to the age of 18, wherever they are living.

The statutory definition and requirements to undertake a needs assessment, prepare a Pathway Plan, keep the Pathway Plan under review and appoint a Personal Adviser are covered by Regulations 42, 43 and 44 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010.

### Relevant Young People

Relevant young people are aged 16 or 17 and are **no longer looked after**, having previously been in the category of Eligible young child when in care (that is, they have been Looked After for a period, or periods, totalling at least 13 weeks starting after their 14th birthday and up to their 16th birthday). However, if after leaving care, a young adult returns home for a period of 6 months or more to be cared for by a parent and the return home has been formally agreed as successful, he or she will no longer be a "Relevant Young Person".

A young adult is also "Relevant" if, having been in care for three months or more, he or she is then detained after their 16th birthday either in a hospital, remand centre, young offenders' institution or secure training centre. There is a duty to support Relevant Young People up to the age of 18, wherever they are living.

The statutory definition and requirements to stay in touch with the young adult, undertake a needs assessment (unless this was done when the young adult was 'Eligible'), prepare and keep the Pathway Plan under review, appoint a Personal Adviser (unless this was done when the young adult was 'Eligible') and provide accommodation and assistance to meet his or her needs in relation to education, training or employment are now covered by Regulations 4 to 9 of the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010.

#### Former Relevant Young People

Former relevant young people are aged 18 to 25 and have left care having been previously either "Eligible", "Relevant" or both. There is a duty to consider the need to support these young people wherever they are living.

The statutory definition and requirements to stay in touch with the young adult, keep the Pathway Plan under review, continue the appointment of a Personal Adviser and provide financial assistance near where the young adult is employed or seeking employment/to enable the young adult to pursue education or training remain unchanged; they are now covered by Regulations 4 to 9 of the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010. These duties continue until the young adult becomes 21 or, where the Pathway Plan sets out a programme of education or training beyond 21, they continue so long as the young adult pursues the programme. The duty to pay a higher education bursary also continues, as before for those who started a course of higher education after 2008.

The duties of Local Authorities are extended in relation to **former relevant young people who inform the Local Authority of their wish to receive a service** after the age of 21 and under the age of 25. In relation to these young people, the Local authority has a duty to:

- Appoint a Personal Adviser.
- Carry out an assessment of the needs to determine what assistance (if any) it would be appropriate to provide.
- Prepare a Pathway Plan.
- Give assistance to the extent that the young adult's educational or training needs require it. The kinds of assistance are contributing to expenses incurred by the young adult in living near the place where s/he is, or will be, receiving education or training; or making a grant to enable the young adult to meet expenses connected with his education and training.
- For those in full-time education, aged 16-19, access to the bursary fund which came into place in 2011.
- The duties of the Local Authority subsist for as long as the young adult pursues the programme of education or training in accordance with the Pathway Plan, and the Local Authority may disregard any interruption in the education/training if it is satisfied that the young adult will resume it as soon as is reasonably practicable.

In each case where a care leaver requests this support, the Local Authority will need to assess the appropriateness of the course and how it will help the young adult to achieve his or her ambitions. The extent of the practical and financial assistance provided will reflect the type of course, whether full - or part-time, and the young adult's existing income.

### Qualifying Young People

Qualifying young people are aged 16 and over and under the age of 21, and are:

- Subject to a special guardianship order (or were when they reached 18) and were looked after immediately before the making of that Order.
- At any time after 16 (but whilst still a child), were looked after, accommodated or fostered.

'Looked after, accommodated or fostered' includes:

- Looked After by a local authority.
- Accommodated by or on behalf of a voluntary organisation.
- Accommodated in a private children's home.
- Accommodated for a consecutive period of at least 3 months (including even before the child was 16) by a Health Authority, CCG or Local Authority (providing education), in:
  - A care home.
  - Independent hospital.
  - National Health Service trust or Foundation Trust.
  - Privately Fostered - but do not qualify as Eligible, Relevant or Former Relevant.

Where a Local Authority looked after, accommodated or fostered a young adult, and they are deemed as Qualifying for advice and assistance, the local authority has a duty to take reasonable steps to contact them with a view to advising and assisting them.

They may receive support, advice and assistance (including, in exceptional circumstances, cash or accommodation) wherever they are living.

If in full-time further or higher education, this may include contributing financial assistance to living expenses relating to their education or training or making a grant towards meeting their education/training expenses - including in relation to securing vacation accommodation up to the age of 24.

Our local offer for care leavers has the objective to clearly provide in a single document outlining the support you can expect from us and what we can expect from you. This will assist you in making the most out of our services that are available to you and make the most of your independence; our local offer is available to all eligible care leavers, including disabled young people. Please read carefully to see what support is available when you are 18-21yrs and 22-25yrs.

We have consulted with the Young Adult Council that advised us their views and opinions on the content of our offer.

At the end of our local offer you will find there is a section for useful contact details, should you require these.

#### About our 18+ Care Leavers Service

Being a Corporate Parent, means that it is our responsibility to be good parents to all our young people in care and being a good parent means keeping our young people safe and providing them with the highest possible level of support to recognise and meet everyone's individual needs.

We can assist you in accessing housing, education, training, work experience and health services; whilst being here to support you to make the most of leaving our care,; we are also able to assist you by providing you advice, encouragement and financial advice to help you make the most of your journey through the care system.

Our care leavers 18+ service is based in West Malling and Dover; it is part of the specialist children's corporate parenting service and works closely with young people who are over the age of 18. Our care leavers 18+ service team is made up with Personal Advisers, who will support you with your journey to independent living. The Care Leavers 18+ service has a legal obligation to support you and provide you with assistance until you are at the age of 25.

#### Other teams working with Care Leavers

Care Leavers in the Young People's Teams or the Adult Social Care Teams are able to access the same support and assistance as those in the 18+ service and will be supported by Case workers in those teams, including Social Workers, Social Work Assistants or Case Officers who will carry out all the same tasks as Personal Advisers in the 18+ teams.

When reference is made to Personal Advisers or the 18+ Care Leavers Service in this document, this includes Social Work staff and Managers in other teams fulfilling the Personal Adviser duties. Or reference to the Children in Care teams or Social Workers may apply to Social Workers in the Disabled Children and Young People Service.

#### What you can expect from your Corporate Parents

The government have introduced corporate parenting principles that requires all departments within a local authority to recognise their role as a corporate parent and encourage them to look at the support and services they provide. These principles require corporate parents:

- To act in the best interest and promote the physical, mental health and wellbeing of those children and young adults
- To encourage those children and young adults to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young adults



- To help those children and young adults to gain access to, and make the best use of, the 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 adults
- To ensure those children and young adults are safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and/or workplace
- To prepare those children and young adults for adulthood and independent living

#### About our Personal Advisers in the 18+ Care Leavers Service and what their role is

When you turn 18-years old, your social worker will be replaced with a Personal Adviser. The role of your Personal Adviser is to become your main point of contact and continue supporting you at least until you turn 21, however, they can support you until you turn 25 if you need or want further support.

Your Personal Adviser will be identified for you after you become 17-years old; this is for you to build a relationship with them before they become your allocated worker, we refer to this as transition working.

Your Personal Adviser will keep in contact with you and arrange meetings, they will visit you at home, University and arrange out of county and community visits. You, as the young adult, are able to make the decisions and choices that help unfold your future as an adult; your Personal Adviser will provide you advice, information and guidance to help you make the best choices and decisions.

The relationship between yourself and your Personal Adviser is important to make the most of what you can access through the 18+ Care Leavers Service.

#### Understanding your Pathway Plan

Every young adult between 16 and 25-years of age that is in care or is a care leaver is provided with a Pathway Plan. Your Pathway Plan will be started by your Social Worker when you turn 16; this will be reviewed with your care plan twice per year and when you turn 18, your Personal Adviser will take over the duties in managing this for you.

Your first pathway plan meeting will be chaired by your independent review officer and evaluated with your care plan and personal education plan, should you have one. The Pathway Plan has information on the best way for us to support you in your transition to independence and adulthood. This can include other key professionals/agencies/support networks involved in your life.

Your Pathway Plan is written in such a way that should meet your individual needs and it will capture your hopes for the future, it will also include your views and key messages. Therefore, you are encouraged to lead your review as much as possible, it is your review. Your Pathway Plan will be regularly reviewed with you and this will take place at least every 6-months – these meetings will ensure that your goals and milestones are still correct and being met.

## Your Money

This section will provide you with information on what financial assistance may be available to you. The amount of money that you will be provided with depends on your age and the accommodation that you stay in.

You will be provided with a Personal Adviser who you can ask for more information from. Remember, if you are not certain about anything you will need to ask a member of staff. If, following a Mental Capacity Assessment, you do not have capacity to manage your money, we will support you to identify who should look after it for you and support you to make the decisions you can.

There is a lot of information for care leavers on the *Kent Cares Town* website, for further information please go to this address <https://kentcares town.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

The Preparing for Adulthood website has a lot of ideas to support disabled young people. [www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk)

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Welfare Benefits</b> Your Social Worker will help you to start the application for benefits to which you may be entitled to a month before you turn 18yrs. Claims for Universal Credit <b>can be</b> started one month before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> <p>If you have applied for benefits and are waiting to be paid, we expect you to apply for an <b>'advance payment.'</b></p> <p><b>Benefit Options</b> Universal credit is the benefit that you may be eligible for. It is a single monthly payment for people in or out of work. There are two parts to it – a payment to you for your expenses and a payment to help you pay your rent. <b>The rent part must be paid to your landlord.</b></p> <p><b>Disability Living Allowance (DLA)/Personal Independence Payment (PIP)</b> If you are already receiving DLA you may receive a letter to change it to PIP, as DLA is gradually being phased out. If you apply after the age of 16 you will automatically be assessed for PIP.</p>	<p>We will help you with your claim for benefits. You need to help us to help you make your claim for benefits. You must attend all of your appointments at the Jobcentre and engage with your Work Coach. Failure to do so could lead to problems with your claim and benefits not being paid.</p> <p>You will need to provide your Personal Adviser with proof that you have applied for benefits.</p> <p>We will only be able to provide food vouchers the first time you are sanctioned, the second time we may refer you to a local food bank. You may not receive any further financial support from us if you are sanctioned again.</p> <p>Your Personal Adviser will be able to advise and support you with applying for benefits and for the duration of the claim.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Essential Living Allowance (ELA) - Kent Card</b></p> <p>We will support you to claim benefits if you are out of work, however if you are unable to claim benefits, then we will offer you a weekly essential living allowance.</p> <p>This payment will be the equivalent to state benefits, and you will be expected to use this for your living costs, including rent and household bills. These bills could include gas, electricity and water.</p> <p><b>How you will be paid</b></p> <p>If the Care Leaver has a Kent Card upon transfer because the Child in Care Social Worker has applied for this, then we can continue making payments on that. However, if the Care Leaver is already 18 and has no Kent Card then the ELA will need to be arranged by the 18+ Personal Adviser,</p> <p>Should you become 'Appeal Right Exhaust', your ELA payment will be changed to £40 per week.</p>	<p>You will need to spend your essential living allowance on day to day essentials and you should budget your money and pay for your essentials first, such as food.</p> <p>These payments are authorised by a Team Manager.</p> <p>ELA will only be paid to those young people not eligible to claim benefits.</p>
<p><b>Savings</b></p> <p>If you have been in care for a long period of time you will have a savings account that you are able to access once you turn 18. Further information about the savings scheme can be found on the website below, <a href="https://sharefound.org/">https://sharefound.org/</a></p> <p><b>Budgeting</b></p> <p>Being able to manage your money is important when moving to independence. If you are not aware how to budget and spend your money wisely then you may struggle when you live on your own. We can offer you support in how to do this.</p> <p>In some cases, you may have access to a key/support worker where you are living who has dedicated time to help you (this is called 'support hours'), this can include helping you to budget.</p>	<p>Depending on how long you have been in care your savings may be a substantial amount – use this money to help you with your future.</p> <p>Not being able to budget properly may affect you in the long-term and if you require budgeting support then speak to your Personal Adviser.</p> <p>If appropriate, you will need to engage in the support hours offered from your accommodation provider to help you develop independent living skills.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Setting up Home Allowances (SUHA)</b>                      We will offer you a setting up home allowance up to the value of £2,000 to buy essential items for when you move into your own independent accommodation. SUHA is paid in instalments of up to £500 once receipts have been provided verifying previous payments.</p> <p>Wherever possible, we can order your items online which will help to ensure items are spent on quality goods. This way we can ensure that the money is spent on essential items needed to set up your home.</p> <p>If you are a parent and have care of the child, we can support you with an additional £200 on top of your SUHA as a one-off payment regardless of the number of children you have.</p> <p>At times you may need essential items of furniture before you move onto independent living; the 18+ Care Leavers Service Team Manager must agree costs and only essential items will be considered.</p> <p>We will support and promote you to progress into independent living in the community, we can provide additional financial support to cover accommodation deposit, 1 month rent in advance and holding fees in addition to the £2,000 setting up home allowance.</p> <p>We will hold back £500 of the £2000 SUHA to cover any rent arrears or payment for damages that occur before you reach the point of moving into your independent accommodation.</p>	<p>To choose items you really need from the essential items list and only essential items for your home may be purchased. This will need to be agreed in your Pathway Plan.</p> <p>You will need to provide receipts to show that only those essential items have been purchased.</p> <p>You must make agreed payments for rent and you must not damage property or properties deliberately.</p>
<p><b>Miscellaneous Payments</b>                      We understand that everyone has their own individual circumstances.</p> <p>The 18+ Care Leavers Service will consider payments for 'unexpected items' and payments will need to be agreed by the 18+ Care Leavers Service Team Manager and an assessment of need will be carried out.</p>	

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Bursaries for Education</b> Bursaries or money for your education and training can be provided.</p> <p><b>Higher Education</b> - Bursary for Care Leavers in higher education is up to a maximum of £4000 provided over 4 years of study (£1000 per academic year, paid in 3 instalments in mid-November, mid-February and mid-May each academic year upon evidence received of attendance and progress being made.</p> <p>We can provide financial assistance to help purchase IT equipment and laptops for Care Leavers up to the <b>age of 21 (unless in Higher Education, up to the age of 25yrs)</b> who are in full time further or higher education where there is a need. This will be assessed on a case by case basis and be for a maximum of £300 to help towards these costs.</p> <p>We will assess, on a case by case basis, support and financial assistance for college travel fare up to age of 25.</p>	<p>We need you to work in partnership with us and your education/training provider to ensure you are supported and receiving all the support you need from them. This will involve you taking part in discussions about your progress and attendance before bursary payments are issued.</p>
<p><b>Subsistence and Emergency Food Vouchers</b> We will pay for day to day <u>essential</u> items and food vouchers to provide to Care Leavers for the following reasons for those up to <b>21yrs of age</b> for a limited period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of an education package</li> <li>• If you are unable to claim benefits</li> <li>• If you are waiting for your benefits to start</li> <li>• In an emergency as agreed by the 18+ service Team Manager</li> </ul> <p>We will support you to access food banks for emergencies, however, please remember there may be a limit on how many times you can access a food bank.</p>	<p>Speak to your Personal Adviser if you think you think you need this additional support.</p> <p>If you have applied for Universal Credit, we expect you to apply for an advance payment.</p> <p>We will ask for proof of your situation and we fully understand that emergencies do happen. However, it is our expectation that if you are claiming your benefits or receiving money from employment, that you budget for emergencies.</p>
<p><b>Clothing Allowance</b> For young people aged <b>18-21 years</b> in receipt of benefits or on a minimum wage income we will pay £120 per year, paid in two separate amounts of £50 in the summer and £70 paid in the winter seasons.</p> <p>To receive the clothing allowance, young people would need to be claiming all eligible</p>	<p>Young person will need to provide receipts for proof of purchase. The 18+ Service can order clothing online for you.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>benefits and engaging with the service.</p> <p>For young people aged <b>21-25 years</b> Clothing Allowance will only be paid in exceptional circumstances, at times of extreme hardship.</p> <p>Payments will be made during the months of May (summer £50) and September (winter £70).</p>	
<p><b>Birthday Money Allowance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £30 paid on 17<sup>th</sup> birthday</li> <li>• £60 paid on 18<sup>th</sup> birthday</li> </ul> <p>This is arranged by the Children in Care Team and your Social Worker.</p>	<p>Please speak to your Social Worker about this before you turn 18yrs old.</p>
<p><b>TV Licence and Contents Insurance</b></p> <p>For young people aged <b>18-21 years</b> in receipt of benefits, on a minimum wage income or in receipt of ELA, we will pay their full cost of the TV licence (2020 it is £157.50). The amount can increase each year.</p> <p>For young people aged <b>18-21 years</b> in receipt of benefits or on a low income, we will pay Contents Insurance of up to £100 per year.</p>	<p>Young people will need to be claiming all eligible benefits to receive this payment.</p>
<p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b></p> <p>Some organisations help Care Leavers by awarding grants that do not need to be repaid.</p> <p>Some grants help with university, moving into independent accommodation and financial support to help you train.</p> <p>Contact the Catch22 advice line on: 0207 017 8901 <a href="http://www.catch-22.org.uk">www.catch-22.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Speak to your Personal Adviser and support worker about what other funds you may be able to access or try a Google search to investigate and find out what other financial support is out there for Care Leavers; you may apply to charities and organisations for additional grant funding if you meet their criteria.</p>



## Important Documents

We all need important documents because without them we are unable to do simple things such as applying for a course, claim benefits or open a bank account.

We will ensure you have the important documents that you require in adulthood, such as a passport and a birth certificate. We will also keep copies of your important documents safely on our files and you will be responsible for keeping the original documents safe.

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Your National Insurance Number</b></p> <p>When you are 15-years and 9-months old, your Children in Care Social Worker, will apply for you to have a National Insurance Number.</p>	<p>Ask your Social Worker if you do not receive this. You no longer receive a NI Card, so you need to keep your number safe.</p>
<p><b>Passport</b></p> <p>For those <b>aged 18-25yrs</b> we will support you with an application for a 10-year passport, if you have not already had one through the Children in Care Team. This will be your main source of identification.</p> <p>We will fund application for a Travel Document for our Asylum Care Leavers. We will contribute £75 towards your travel documents for former UASC with Refugee Status or with Humanitarian Protection Status.</p> <p>This will be a one-off payment for both passport and travel documents.</p>	<p>Do not lose this or you will have to apply and pay for a new one. If you do lose this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will not be allowed to leave the country or travel</li> <li>• You may be at risk of identity theft</li> </ul> <p>You must keep this in a safe place.</p>
<p><b>Provisional Driving Licence</b></p> <p>For those <b>aged 18-21yrs</b>, if you need to learn to drive because you have a job or have been offered a job that requires a driving licence, we will pay 50% towards your provisional driving licence and your theory and practical driving tests.</p> <p>We will contribute up to a maximum of £300 towards your driving lessons following an assessment of your affordability to continue with the lessons and tests.</p>	<p>You are unable to drive without a provisional driving licence.</p> <p>If you lose your licence you will have to pay for a new one and if you do not turn up for driving lessons, we will discontinue our contribution.</p> <p>Once you have passed your tests, you must ensure you are insured to drive and have a road worthy car.</p>
<p><b>Birth Certificate</b></p> <p>If you do not have a birth certificate, we will apply for you to get one.</p>	<p>If you lose this document, you will have to pay for a new copy.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Keeping Documents Safe</b> We will keep copies of all your documents safe for you and you will keep the original documents.</p>	<p>At certain times you will need your original documents and copies of documents will not be accepted; for example, opening a bank account.</p>
<p><b>British Citizenship</b> If you are able to apply for British citizenship before the age of 18, then we will support you in how to complete the application.</p>	<p>To tell us you want to apply.</p>

## Housing Options

There are different kinds of housing with support and you will have a large say on where you wish to live. Your Social Worker and Personal Adviser will be visiting you and where you choose to live will be agreed in your Pathway Plan.

If you are at university and require help with the cost of accommodation during vacation time, we will support you with this.

Staying on with foster carers is referred to as ‘Staying Put’ and you can stay with your foster carer until the age of 21, if agreed. This will not affect you on obtaining permanent tenancy and we have a range of different kind of supported housing options that are available depending on your need.

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Independent Housing (private renting)</b> It is important to know that you are likely to have a greater range of choices for accessing private rented accommodation if you are in education, training or employment, and can access the <b>KCC Rent Guarantor Scheme</b>, but without these in place, your choices are likely to be limited. You will also need to be able to budget, cook and keep your home tidy. If you are living out of county, we will inform you about your housing options.  When you are in independent accommodation you are responsible for yourself and for paying your bills, such as gas, electricity, council tax and water.  If you have particular needs which mean you require Social Housing, you can attempt to access the local housing authority’s housing register. This is a long process and should</p>	<p>To keep on top of your bills and to abide by your tenancy agreement, you can work with your Personal Adviser to help you with this as if you do not keep to your tenancy agreement, you may be at risk of eviction and homelessness.  Find out about your bills such as water, gas, council tax and electricity. These can all be paid for monthly through your bank and this is a much better option than running up bills.  Make sure you know how your rent is being paid as it is your responsibility, whether you are working or on benefits, to ensure that your rent is paid to avoid eviction.  If you are a Care Leaver who is claiming rent payments via Universal Credit and are not confident that you will be able to manage the responsibility of paying your rent to your</p>



Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>not be relied upon, in all but a few cases. In most cases, you should be able to access work, or benefits to pay for your rent in a private rented property. There is no guarantee that because you want social housing, that you will be eligible or able to access this.</p>	<p>landlord initially, you can speak to your DWP Work Coach and arrange for this to be paid directly to them, avoiding you needing to be responsible for this to be completed. Please speak to them (or your Personal Adviser) about 'direct payments to landlords'.</p>
<p><b>Council Tax</b> Council tax is a payment for local services and many people over 18 are liable to pay it. We will support you to claim all eligible council tax benefits and reductions.</p> <p>From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, KCC will fund the council tax payments for young people aged <b>18 years old up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday (aged 18 to 20 inclusive)</b> who have been in Kent Local Authority Care and are eligible for a Kent Care Leavers Service. Only those Care Leavers who are named on a tenancy agreement, are able to access this payment. For more information and to obtain the form contact your Personal Advisor.</p>	<p>All young people will be expected to claim any applicable council tax discount/benefit entitlement such as Council Tax Support, single person discount, student exemption etc.</p> <p>A large number of young people who are Care Leavers will already have their council tax funded through these entitlements, which should continue and will not be affected by the scheme.</p>
<p><b>Staying Put</b> If you and your carer agree, you can keep living in your foster placement until you reach 21, your placement is then called 'Staying Put'.</p> <p>You will be a lodger in their home, in that you will be renting a room from them and you will be expected to pay a contribution for your keep. Whilst here, you will be supported to develop your independent living skills further with your carer.</p> <p>This will mean that you continue to receive that extra care and support you might need before taking on your own independent accommodation. Many young people are not ready to move into their own accommodation at 18 and this can be a nice way of remaining part of a family and making sure you are confident in taking your next step towards independence.</p> <p><b>Shared Lives</b> If you are disabled and/or need more</p>	<p>Staying Put will help you maintain a supportive relationship with your carers and, if you decide to do this, we will still help you apply for independent accommodation after you are 21.</p> <p>Do not be in a rush to get your own property as independent living is hard, so make sure you make the right choice for you.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>support than can be offered through Staying Put, then Shared Lives might be a possible option for you, either with your current carers if they apply to become Shared Lives carers or another. Shared Lives can only be accessed via the Disabled Young People’s Team or one of the Adult Services Teams of KCC and should be considered by the Children in Care or the Young People’s teams before you turn 18yrs of age.</p>	
<p><b>Personal Adviser Support</b>                      For a period, you will have the support of your Personal Adviser when you get your permanent home, to help you settle in.</p> <p>We will undertake a Pathway Plan Review when you have been in your home for 28-days and at least every 6-months after that.</p> <p>We will provide you with a Personal Adviser who visits within a week of you moving into your new home, and then visit at least every 2 months after that.</p>	<p>Make sure you use the support from your keyworker in your accommodation if you have one as they are there to help and support you and speak to your Personal Adviser if you feel you are not getting the support you need.</p>
<p><b>Young Person’s Supported Accommodation and Floating Support Service</b>                      This is a supportive accommodation package for Care Leavers who are ready for independent accommodation but require or would like extra help and support.</p> <p>In Kent there is a range of housing with support, for example some accommodation might be in shared houses or single flats.</p> <p>The key purpose for supported accommodation is there will be staff on hand to support and guide you and they might be there for certain parts of the day or 24 hours.</p> <p><b>Supported Living</b>                      If you are disabled, you may have your housing needs met by a Supported Living provider (and exceptionally in a Residential Provision). The level of support you require from the Provider will be detailed in your Pathway Plan.</p>	<p>Engage with your support worker as they will help you access local services and connect with your local community and, if you have any problems with settling in, your support worker will help you.</p> <p>You will be expected to abide by the house rules.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>University accommodation in holiday periods</b>                      You will need to apply to Student Finance England to receive a student loan to cover the cost of your university rent.                      Whilst you are at university, we can pay your <b>holiday accommodation rent</b> if there is a need. You are responsible for your rent during term time.</p> <p>The amount paid will be agreed by the Head of the 18+ Care Leavers Service up to a maximum of £140 per week in line with the Staying Put standard rate and the Local Housing Allowance Rate.</p>	<p>You must apply to Student Finance England to access financial support.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/apply">https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/apply</a></p> <p>If you do not use your accommodation, then you may be at risk of losing it.</p>
<p><b>Moving placement and school/college</b>                      We will aim to keep you safe in one place and if you do move, we will try to make this planned.</p> <p>If you must change school/college, we will make sure you are well supported with this transition and we will seek to adhere to the principles of staying close.</p>	<p>If you are unhappy in your placement speak to your Social Worker or Personal Adviser and they will be able to guide you.</p> <p>Attend your Looked After Children Review and pathway planning meetings so you can talk about your placement and any plans to move you. You will be fully involved in any housing decisions.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing housing support</b>                      Your Personal Adviser will assist and guide you with housing issues and if you live in supported housing you will have a support worker who will work with you to help you build your independence skills.</p> <p>Your Personal Adviser may refer you to a floating support worker if you live in your own flat who will help with your personal life and practical life skills, such as budgeting.</p> <p><b>Rent Guarantor Scheme</b>                      We have a rent deposit and rent guarantee scheme that can be accessed by care leavers, enabling them to seek housing in the private rented sector.                      You must be in employment or in higher education to ensure you can afford to pay the rent to be eligible for the Rent Guarantor Scheme.                      The scheme is available for those <b>aged 18-25yrs</b> and will cease on your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is called a 'corporate rent guarantor scheme'</p>	<p>If you are allocated a worker and you do not go to meetings the support may stop, so try to engage with your workers and get the maximum benefit from them as they are there to support you.</p> <p>You must be able to show you can manage the rent payments and not get into debt.</p> <p>You must let your Personal Adviser know as soon as possible if your financial circumstances change and this impacts on being able to pay your rent.</p> <p>Once you turn 25yrs, you will be responsible for all of your rent payments as the corporate rent guarantor scheme will end at this point.</p>

## Your Safety

As your corporate parent - your safety is at our utmost priority and we will do our very best to keep you safe and ensure you have a safe place to live.

We will work with outside agencies to support you to ensure your safety, this may include the Police, Health and Housing.

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>A safe place to live</b> If your placement is unsafe, we will work with you to move you to somewhere that is.</p>	<p>Make sure you tell us when you are worried about something and do not allow strangers into your home. Report incidences to your Personal Adviser or the Police if you feel you are in danger.</p>
<p><b>Keeping safe</b> We will provide you with guidance and practical advice on how to keep yourself practically and emotionally safe and we may refer you to a counsellor or mentor to enable this.</p>	<p>You must work with us and other organisations to keep you safe and ensure you attend appointments.</p>
<p><b>Keeping you in touch</b> Where appropriate, Personal Advisers can help you to keep in contact with relatives and friends that you have met whilst in care.</p> <p><b>If you are in custody</b> We will offer you support if you are detained in custody. We work closely with prisons and probation service to monitor and support you as you enter or leave custody.</p> <p>We will establish close working partnerships with the resettlement officers and the local prisons.</p> <p>Financial payment of £10 per week for those <b>aged 18 - up to 21yrs</b> for those Care Leavers described as Former Relevant while they are in Custody who are engaging in positive activities whilst in prison (e.g. training/education).</p> <p>Personal Advisers will continue to visit 6-8 weekly and communicate with your supporting network.</p> <p>During the final sentence over a 12-week period your Children in Care Social Worker or Personal Adviser will be exploring your</p>	<p>It is important for you to tell us who you wish to be in touch with, you might have lost touch with friends or family, and we will need your help to support you in finding these people.</p> <p>You need to engage in positive activities whilst in custody in order to receive the £10 per week payment. For example, a form of training or education programme.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>housing and support options before you are released.</p> <p>The discharge plan will be formulated into the Pathway Plan. We will work with Probation, NACRO and OMU.</p>	

## Getting your Voice Heard

Having a voice and knowing that your rights are important when you are a care leaver. As a service, we really want to hear your views, and there are a lot of ways that this can be done. By allowing your voice to be heard you can help us improve our services and the care system, your workers have a duty to listen to you and involve you in decisions that are made. If you use alternative methods of communication, we will ensure that you can still express your views and wishes.

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Young Inspector Scheme</b></p> <p>Kent County Council's Care Leaver Young Inspectors are put at the front line of services that impact their experiences daily. Our Young Inspectors help to improve services offered to them by the council. Young Inspectors make changes that benefit not just themselves, but other young people and organisations.</p> <p>This would be something good for yourself to be involved in as you will receive a voucher for your contribution with the young inspectors. This will also look good on your CV and for future job applications.</p> <p>Due to the COVID pandemic, this project is currently on hold. However, we will restart this once it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>Volunteer to become a Young Inspector and engage in the scheme.</p>

<p><b>Leaving Care Charter</b></p> <p>We know that leaving care can be a difficult and uncertain time with lots of changes to consider. Kent County Council, as your 'Corporate Parent', can be there to guide and support you through it.</p> <p>The Leaving Care Charter explains exactly what you should expect in terms of the help and support Kent County Council will give you as you leave care. It follows on from the Kent Pledge made to children and young people in the care of Kent County Council. The Charter says that you must be asked about important decisions that affect you and that your opinions should be listened to.</p> <p>The Charter explains what you can do if things are not going well or you feel you are not receiving the support you should. It also tells you how you can have an input into the services Kent County Council provides for Children in Care and Care Leavers.</p>	<p>If you do not have a copy of the Leaving Care Charter, please ask your Personal Adviser for one.</p> <p>You can also find it by visiting <a href="http://www.kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk/">www.kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk/</a>.</p>
<p><b>Young Adult Council (YAC)</b></p> <p>YAC is a group of Young People in Care and Care Leavers aged 16 and over. They meet regularly to have their say about issues that affect them and others in care or those who have left care, so they can make positive changes both in their own lives and for others. Elected Members, senior leaders and key professionals at Kent County Council regularly come to meet with the members of YAC to hear their views on a variety of topics affecting Young People in Care and Care Leavers and take their advice before making significant changes or introducing new policies or procedures.</p> <p>The group also like to have fun. They regularly go on trips, take part in activities and fundraise for charity too.</p>	<p>YAC allows you to have your say and make sure your voice is heard by decision makers in Kent County Council. It is also a great way to meet new people, build confidence and boost your CV.</p> <p>If you are interested in becoming a member of YAC, please contact <a href="mailto:VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk">VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk</a>.</p>

<p><b>Challenge Cards</b></p> <p>Challenge Cards are a formal way for you to express your views about issues faced by Children in Care or Care Leavers and challenge the way Kent County Council does things. Once a challenge is received, it is taken to one of the Children in Care (CiC) Councils where it is discussed. If the CiC Council feels that the challenge should be taken forward, it is discussed at a meeting of senior officers. It is the officers at this meeting who have the responsibility to decide on actions to meet the challenge and who will carry out these actions. It is also reported to the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Virtual School Kent Participation Team will keep you updated about the progress of your challenge.</p>	<p>Challenges should be about issues that affect many children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers. Challenge Cards that are related to personal issues are passed to relevant professionals who can help with the issue raised.</p> <p>Contact the VSK Participation Team to find out more about making a challenge to your corporate parents: <a href="mailto:VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk">VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<p><b>Recruit Crew</b></p> <p>Kent County Council believes that it is important to include young people, who have had experience of the care system, when they are recruiting new staff who are going to be working with children and young people. This means that when Personal Advisers or Social Workers, for example, are interviewed there is often a young adult on the panel too asking questions about the things they feel are important.</p> <p>The 'Recruit Crew' is a group of care experienced young people who regularly support these recruitment activities.</p>	<p>If you would like to sit on an interview panel, please contact <a href="mailto:VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk">VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>The VSK Participation Team also offer a one-day Level Two course in 'Interviewing Skills for Service Users' which helps prepare you for taking part.</p> <p>Both this course and any interview panel experience you have can be added to your CV. The experience can also help you when you are interviewed yourself as it gives you a good insight into the recruitment process.</p> <p>You will often receive vouchers as a thank you for attending and will have your travel expenses paid for.</p>



<p><b>Your Personal Adviser</b></p> <p>When you turn 18 you will be allocated with a Personal Adviser as opposed to a Social Worker.</p> <p>Your Personal Adviser will keep in contact and arrange meetings with you, they will visit you at home but can also arrange to see you in the community.</p> <p>Your Personal Adviser will give you advice, information and guidance to help you make the right decisions for you.</p>	<p>The visits from your Personal Adviser is your chance to allow your voice to be heard, speak to them about any problems you have as we do not want things to happen that you do not want.</p>
<p><b>Changing your Personal Adviser</b></p> <p>In exceptional circumstances you can request to have your Personal Adviser changed. It is important to try and resolve any issues first.</p> <p>To request a new PA, you will need to speak to the 18+ Care Leavers Service Team Manager to discuss this.</p>	<p>Speak to your Personal Adviser to work out any issues that you may have.</p>
<p><b>Contacting your Personal Adviser</b></p> <p>You will be provided with your Personal Adviser's mobile number and email address. They work from 09:00-17:00, Monday to Friday and can offer you support during that time. The Out of Hours number is 03000 419191.</p> <p>Occasionally Personal Advisers leave, if this does happen then your Personal Adviser will say goodbye to you at least 2-weeks before this. If this does not happen, we will explain to you why.</p>	<p>Contact your Personal Adviser when you need them and agree who you can contact if you require them outside of their working hours.</p>
<p><b>Participation Service</b></p> <p>You will have access to Kent's participation service where you can get involved in making changes to the care system, going on trips and much more.</p> <p>Kent County Council offers regular forums, drop-ins and various media platforms for young people to access information and to voice their views, wishes and feelings and share their experience.</p> <p>We will also promote volunteering opportunities for Care Leavers where they can give back to the community and at the same time the society can have a different</p>	<p>Get in touch with the service as getting involved in group activities, forums and training will help to boost your self-esteem, develop new skills and help you to build your curriculum vitae.</p>



<p>experience and view of Care Leavers</p> <p><b>Participation in Society</b> We offer the Duke of Edinburgh award to Care Leavers. We believe that the Duke of Edinburgh award would help young people to integrate in the community.</p> <p>The award is for young people between 14 to 24, including those who are disabled, and helps young people stand out from the crowd when they apply for college, university or jobs.</p> <p>If you do not know much about the award, here is a link <a href="https://www.dofe.org/">https://www.dofe.org/</a></p>	
<p><b>Advocacy Support</b> If you would prefer to talk to someone independent of Kent County Council or feel like you need additional support to resolve a problem, you can talk to an advocate. Their role is to listen to your concerns and support you to find solutions. They make sure you understand your rights and what you are entitled to as a young person in care or care leaver in Kent. With your agreement, they can attend meetings with you and contact people who work with you on your behalf. Kent County Council have an independent Advocacy Service with the Young Lives Foundation.</p>	<p>You can contact Young Lives Foundation on the following details: (free phone) 0808 1640096 or you can email <a href="mailto:advocacy@ylf.org.uk">advocacy@ylf.org.uk</a>, <a href="http://www.ylf.org.uk">www.ylf.org.uk</a> <a href="https://ylf.org.uk/how-we-help/young-people/">https://ylf.org.uk/how-we-help/young-people/</a></p>
<p><b>How to Complain</b> You have the right to complain if you cannot solve a problem with your Personal Adviser or their manager.</p> <p>You can contact our complaints department on: <a href="mailto:CScomplaints@kent.gov.uk">CScomplaints@kent.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Try to find a solution with your Personal Adviser or 18+ Care Leavers Service Team Manager. If this cannot be resolved, the Team Manager will inform the Service Manager or Head of Service. If this still cannot be resolved, please then contact the complaint or advocacy services.</p>
<p><b>Advice and help for Care Leavers</b> There are lots of services for Care Leavers should you require additional support and guidance.</p> <p>There are lots of national organisations campaigning for better services for Care Leavers and they run national consultation events, to hear your views.</p>	

<p>Contact <i>become charity</i>:                  Freephone 0800 023 2033  <a href="mailto:advice@becomecharity.org.uk">advice@becomecharity.org.uk</a></p> <p>The BeYou Project connects young people in Kent who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary or are questioning their sexual orientation and / or gender identity. We offer a safe, welcoming and non-judgemental space where young LGBT+ people can meet to socialise, have fun and help each other.</p> <p><a href="mailto:beyou@porchlight.org.uk">Want to find out more? Contact our team by emailing beyou@porchlight.org.uk.</a></p>	
<p><b>Young Parents</b></p> <p>We will support Care Leavers who become parents. This would include young fathers; those parents who need just a bit of support; those parents where there are child protection concerns; those parents who might have had their children removed. We will offer a Mentor as well as practical support through drop-ins and essential packs of baby essentials.</p>	

## Your health

Your health matters to us, being healthy does not only mean being physically healthy, but it also is defined by your mental and sexual health. There are a lot of services that are provided to ensure all aspects of *being healthy* are met.

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Your Doctor</b></p> <p>It is important to register with a GP; your Personal Adviser can help you, should you need help.</p> <p>A General Practitioner (GP) treats common medical conditions and can refer to other services.</p> <p>You must provide details of your 'Next of Kin' to your doctors and other key health services that you access. It is important to keep this up to date, for example, if you become a parent, who would be contacted in an emergency.</p>	<p>If you move homes, it will be your responsibility to inform your GP and sign up with a different one.</p> <p>You need to keep your Personal Adviser up to date with your GP and your next of kin details.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Find a GP:</b>  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4">https://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4</a></p> <p><b>Emotional Wellbeing</b>                      If you need someone to talk to about any concerns that you do not feel comfortable to share with your Personal Adviser or a trusted person, then we can signpost you to relevant services, that may be able to provide support.</p> <p>There are services available that can provide support in several life events that may present with difficulties:</p> <p><b>Mind:</b>  <a href="https://www.mind.org.uk/">https://www.mind.org.uk/</a>                      or call <b>0300 123 3393</b> or text <b>86463</b></p> <p><b>Samaritans:</b>  <a href="https://www.samaritans.org/">https://www.samaritans.org/</a>                      or call <b>116 123</b> or email <a href="mailto:jo@samaritans.org">jo@samaritans.org</a>                      (24hr response).</p> <p><b>Every Mind Matters:</b>  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/">https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/</a></p> <p><b>Papyrus:</b>  <a href="https://papyrus-uk.org/">https://papyrus-uk.org/</a>                      Or call <b>0800 068 41 41</b> or text <b>07786 209 697</b></p> <p><b>Sane:</b>  <a href="http://www.sane.org.uk/">http://www.sane.org.uk/</a>                      Or call 0300 304 7000</p> <p><b>Live Well Kent:</b>  <a href="https://livewellkent.org.uk/">https://livewellkent.org.uk/</a>                      Or call 0800 567 7699</p>	<p>If you are struggling, speak up. There are a lot of people who are here to help you.</p> <p>To help you with your emotional wellbeing, it is important for you to engage with the services offered within KCC and the community.</p>
<p><b>Leisure Facilities</b>                      For those <b>aged 18-25yrs</b>, if you would like help to access leisure care, sport or fitness activities then speak to your Personal Adviser who can help you to see what is available in your local area for free leisure facilities. There are many free fitness facilities in local parks, beach fronts you can access.</p> <p>Kent Sport has information about sport</p>	<p>We will help you to explore access to free leisure facilities in your local area. If you are accessing education, you may be able to access facilities from them or receive discounted rates.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>opportunities, including disability clubs and activities in Kent and Medway  <a href="https://www.kentsport.org/get-active/sport-disability/">https://www.kentsport.org/get-active/sport-disability/</a></p>	
<p><b>Sexual Health</b>                      If you need help and support with sexual health, you will be referred by your Personal Adviser to the right services for you. Your support worker or key worker may also give you advice and guidance.</p> <p>If you are having sex or thinking about having sex it is important that you protect yourself against sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy by using condom and planned contraception. If you do not feel comfortable in discussing this with personal adviser, please see information provided.</p> <p><i>Gum:</i>  <a href="https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/sexual-health/">https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/sexual-health/</a></p> <p><i>Your Sexual Health Matters:</i>  <a href="https://www.yoursexualhealthmatters.org.uk/">https://www.yoursexualhealthmatters.org.uk/</a>                      Or call 0800 328 3383</p>	<p>Keep yourself safe, if you do not use a condom you will be at risk of becoming a young parent and catching sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p>There are services that provide you with free condoms, contraception, pregnancy tests and much more.</p> <p>Please click on the link for some services  <a href="http://www.kentcares town.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk/health-centre">http://www.kentcares town.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk/health-centre</a></p>
<p><b>Dentist and Opticians</b>                      If you are receiving benefits you should be able to access free dental and optician care. They are also free if you are under 18 or are in full-time education.</p> <p>If you are awaiting asylum / ARE we can support you to complete a HC2 certificate for help with health costs.  <a href="https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-low-income-scheme/hc2-certificates-full-help-health-costs">https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-low-income-scheme/hc2-certificates-full-help-health-costs</a></p> <p>If you apply to the NHS Low Income Scheme and receive an HC2 certificate for help with health costs, you are entitled to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free NHS prescriptions</li> <li>• free NHS dental treatment</li> <li>• free NHS sight tests</li> <li>• help with the cost of glasses or contact lenses</li> <li>• help with the cost of travelling to receive</li> </ul>	<p>It is important you attend health appointments, otherwise you could be at risk of being taken off the list of patients.</p> <p>It is important to check if your circumstances change if this impacts on receiving free health care support.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>NHS treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free NHS wigs and fabric supports</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Drug and Alcohol Support</b></p> <p>There are services that can help with drug and alcohol treatment, including advice, information, drop-in-services, structured treatment, counselling, harm reduction techniques.</p> <p><i>East Kent:</i>  <a href="https://www.forwardtrust.org.uk/">https://www.forwardtrust.org.uk/</a>                      Or call 0300 123 1186</p> <p><i>West Kent:</i>  <a href="https://www.changegrowlive.org/">https://www.changegrowlive.org/</a>                      Or call 0844 225 0652</p> <p><i>Alcoholics Anonymous:</i>  <a href="https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/">https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/</a>                      Or call 0800 917 7690</p> <p><i>Frank:</i>  <a href="https://www.talktofrank.com/">https://www.talktofrank.com/</a>                      Or call 0300 123 6600</p>	<p>If you want help and support, you need to be able to speak up and let us know.</p>
<p><b>Health Passports</b></p> <p>When you become a Care Leaver you will be given a health passport by the looked after children nurse at your last statutory health check, which will contain all your health information. Your health history will be a summary of your overall health and will be provided just before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> <p>This will be useful to use when you access health services and adult services. If you have a Learning Disability you are entitled to have a free Annual Health Check with your GP from the age of 14.</p>	<p>It is important that you keep this information safe and it could be important to you at any time in the future.</p>

## Your Education, Employment & Training

Being engaged in education, employment or training will help you with your chosen career path and move towards independence. Further education is essential for you to gain academic qualifications that you will need when searching for employment later. However, college and university are not the only options and there are training and apprenticeship schemes that are very popular and can be a good way to learn whilst you earn an income.

We have a dedicated team to support you with understanding and accessing education, employment or training.

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>18+ Education, Employment &amp; Training Team</b> We will offer support to ensure that you are achieving the best of your ability. The Team are in place to assist you with your career journey and access provision.</p> <p>We can support you by providing 1:1 private tuition for maths and English GCSE retakes and will discuss with you and your Personal Adviser to put this in place if required.</p> <p><b>Designated Member of Staff</b> If you are in education (college and university), we will liaise with your education provider's 'Designated Member of Staff' (a key contact specifically for Care Leavers) to access additional support where necessary including financial support.</p> <p><b>University</b> We will provide additional information to support you in your university applications and be on hand if you have concerns or worries. This includes help with your university application form, understanding the financial support and accepting your offers. Some universities offer all year-round accommodation for care leavers and bursaries.</p>	<p>It might not be possible to find a provider for all interests and courses, so you might need to be flexible. It is important that you do attend your training, education or employment placement to avoid being asked to leave or not being able to progress if attendance is below % or you have not met the entry requirements of the next level course.</p> <p>Speak to your PA or the EET Team for help, especially if you are not happy on your course/job to see if they can help you to resolve this.</p> <p>Speak to the Designated Members of Staff at the university to find out what additional support they offer care leavers. Whilst at university, you may wish to become an 'Ambassador' where you help to show potential students about university life – and get paid to do so!</p>
<p><b>Apprenticeships</b> An apprenticeship can be a great way to learn a new skill, achieve a qualification and get paid at the same time. Apprenticeships</p>	<p>Please speak to your Personal Adviser or the EET team if you would like to find out</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>can also be another way of achieving higher education without accruing the university debt as they are available in several levels, from level 2 up (GCSE) to level 7 (Master's degree).</p> <p>If you are aged <b>18-21yrs</b> and get an apprenticeship, we will provide you with travel money and assist you until you receive your first salary payment.</p> <p>Care leavers who choose to start an apprenticeship will receive a £1000 bursary to help the transition into the workplace. Bursaries will be paid once to each <b>Care Leaver</b> in the eligible age range (<b>16-24yrs</b>) starting an apprenticeship after 1st August 2018, via their training provider. This new bursary scheme is part of a wider reform of apprenticeship funding by the UK Government.</p> <p>Kent County Council also offer many apprenticeships that Care Leavers can access.</p>	<p>more information on apprenticeships.</p>
<p><b>Finding work and our Interview Allowance</b></p> <p>We will provide you with a one-off payment of £50 to purchase interview clothes for an interview for those <b>aged 18-21yrs</b>.</p> <p>We will also help by providing you with interview practice, assisting with applying for jobs and with creating your curriculum vitae and personal statement.</p> <p>The job centre plus will support you to look and apply for work if you are not in education or employment and adult learning can support you, ask to speak to the 'Work Coach' at the job centre for help.</p> <p><b>Kent Supported Employment Service</b></p> <p>They can help people with physical/learning difficulties, autism and other barriers to gain and keep a job. They offer a service of direct delivery through the supported employment model, job coaching and travel training.</p> <p>Contact them direct.</p>	<p>Please contact your Personal Adviser or support worker about help with getting ready for an interview and with applying for jobs, they can help you with this.</p> <p>If you are claiming Universal Credit you will be expected to work with the DWP to find a job.</p>



Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><a href="mailto:kentsupportedemployment@kent.gov.uk">kentsupportedemployment@kent.gov.uk</a> or 03000 421552</p> <p>Kent County Council also now guarantees Care Leavers the opportunity to be interviewed for any jobs applied for where the minimum entry requirement has been met.</p>	
<p><b>Exam Rewards</b></p> <p>If you provide your Personal Adviser with images of certificates when you complete a qualification, we reward results from ESOL/GCSE to degree level. This would be up to a maximum of £50 in vouchers per academic year for those <b>aged 18-21yrs</b> (£25 per qualification).</p> <p><b>£100 reward</b></p> <p>If you complete your undergraduate degree, we will reward you with £100 in vouchers (aged 18-25yrs).</p>	<p>Please make sure you let us know when you do achieve some success, we would like to celebrate this with you.</p>
<p><b>University</b></p> <p>If you decide to go to university, we will assist you with your housing during holiday periods and provide you with extra financial support.</p> <p>Long-term funding for higher education will be agreed by our management team if necessary.</p> <p>We will support you for a maximum of 4-years of university study (£1000 per academic year). This support is available for Care Leavers studying on 3/4year undergraduate programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will be eligible to apply for a student loan from Student Finance England</li> <li>• We will support you to visit universities prior to acceptance by covering travel costs</li> <li>• We will assist you with the initial costs of moving to &amp; from university up to £200</li> </ul> <p>You may also be able to access additional support from the university who often have additional funds and grants for care leavers.</p>	<p>If you are thinking about applying for university, please speak to your Personal Adviser as they will be able to assist with applying for your Student Finance Loan to cover tuition fees and living costs.</p> <p>If you are attending University you are able to use some of your Setting Up Home Allowance to cover the costs of duvets, pots and pans etc. up to a maximum of £200.</p>



Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Support for Students with Disabilities</b> Universities and higher education colleges must make provision for students with disabilities, including long-term conditions and specific learning difficulties. Every university or college has a disability adviser or learning support coordinator to help you get the most out of your time in higher education, who can tell you about the support available to help you with access to accommodation and your academic course.</p>	
<p><b>Propel</b> Propel is a fully searchable website for Care Leavers providing information on the support available to you at colleges and universities across the UK. Find out about all year-round accommodation, bursaries and grants and key contacts. <a href="https://propel.org.uk/UK/">https://propel.org.uk/UK/</a></p>	
<p><b>University support for Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Care Leaver</b> You may study at university if you are an unaccompanied asylum-seeking young person. However, you may not be entitled to pay home fees and you may not be eligible for student finance.  Some universities use their discretionary powers to allow unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people to study as home students.  <b>Discretionary leave to remain</b> You may be able to access university support if:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You live in England</li> <li>▪ You have lived in England for 3-years</li> </ul>  <b>Indefinite leave to remain</b> You may be entitled to home fees and student finance.</p>	<p>If you are interested in applying for university it will depend on your immigration status, please contact your Personal Adviser who can assist you with this.  Check with the individual university BEFORE making any commitments to join a course.</p>
<p><b>Further education</b> You will be supported if you are in further education and there are several funds available to you, however this can change each new academic year:</p>	<p>If you are not in employment, on a training programme or in education you will have to claim benefits.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>16-19yr bursary for Children in Care &amp; Care Leavers</b> Please apply for the bursary from your Student Services Adviser at college or school before you start the course. The bursary is to support you with educational related costs (including travel) and is administered by the education provider.</p> <p><b>Discretionary Learner Support Fund</b> This comes from the educational provider. If you are advised that support is not available immediately discuss this with your Personal Adviser who can assist you.</p> <p><b>Care to Learn</b> For young parents, aged 20 and under, there is government funding to support in place to assist with nursery and childminder costs for young parents. Speak to your education provider.</p>	<p>For the 16-19 Bursary, you need to ensure you are clear of the educational providers requirements for receiving the bursary, e.g. 95% attendance, good behaviour. Your attendance and behaviour will be monitored.</p> <p>If you are a young parent, then please contact your Personal Adviser about what extra support is available for you.</p> <p>Speak to the education provider about this before starting any course.</p> <p>Speak to the education provider about this before starting any course.</p>
<p><b>Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)</b> If you have an Education, Health and Care Plan this may continue up to the age of 25 if you are in school or a further education placement and it is agreed that it is required to meet your educational outcomes. This will be reviewed annually by the school or college and the SEN department. If you go to University or Higher Education, your EHCP will cease.</p>	<p>We will continue to support you with your Education and attend your EHCP annual review for as long you stay in school or college.</p>
<p><b>Volunteering</b> We will support and encourage you to access volunteering opportunities to increase on your work experience and develop skills. Kent County Council offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities and information:</p> <p><a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering">https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering</a></p>	<p>Volunteer placements can be great fun, you can earn accreditation and receive a small allowance for travel and lunch.</p>
<p><b>Travel costs</b> If you live in Kent, we will provide you with a 'KCC 16+ travel card (care)' which you can use up until the age of <b>21 years</b> (subject to the travel pass offer and application criteria set by transport service at the time of application).</p>	<p>If you are under 19 and in full-time education, please apply for the 16+ oyster card (not 18+) as you are eligible for free travel.</p> <p>We will pay a £10 administration cost for you to get an oyster card or equivalent for the</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p>In exceptional circumstances consideration will be given to additional payments if having to travel outside of Kent in the UK (to be agreed by 18+ Service Manager/Head of Service).</p> <p>We can support with travel costs for returning to Kent during university holidays’ – to help with any anxiety and settling in. We can offer 3 additional trips to cover travel costs for visits back ‘home’ outside of the holiday times.</p> <p>If you are in full time education, training and living and learning in London, you are able to access one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16+ student oyster card- this offers free travel on buses and trams across London</li> <li>• 18+ student oyster card – this offers 30% off the cost of adult travel fare.</li> </ul>	<p>area you live in.</p>
<p><b>Studying away from home</b></p> <p>Funding may be available for those who would like to access specialist courses outside of the local area.</p> <p>This would have to be agreed by the 18+ Care Leavers Service Team Manager before the course is agreed. The 2 main types of funding are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential bursaries from the college</li> <li>• Residential support schemes.</li> </ul>	<p>Please let us know how we can support your study.</p> <p>You will need to share progress on your achievement for the support to continue.</p>
<p><b>Additional education payments</b></p> <p>For those aged <b>18-21yrs</b>, we can contribute towards additional alternative educational programmes. This has to be discussed with the EET team to confirm the appropriateness of the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will pay up to a maximum of £200 towards the registration and/or exam fees for your agreed course (once per academic year)</li> <li>• We will support you with essential equipment and books as agreed on an individual basis.</li> <li>• We will assist you in paying for graduation tickets, photos, and robes, etc. up to £100.</li> </ul>	<p>You will need to discuss possible courses with us before any applications are made. If agreed, you will need to share updates on your progress.</p> <p>Please contact us if you feel things are going wrong and you are struggling with the course – we can help to support you.</p>

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Care Leaver Covenant</b>                      The Covenant is a promise made by private, public or voluntary organisations to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them to live independently.                      You can search to see what is being offered in your local area or nationally which can include work placements, mentoring, job opportunities, discount on activities.</p> <p><a href="https://mycovenant.org.uk/">https://mycovenant.org.uk/</a></p>	

## Identity and Social Relationships

Having a supportive network of friends and family around you can help as you make the transition from care to independence.

Our offer to you	Your responsibilities and our advice
<p><b>Relationships with family and friends</b>                      Contact with younger siblings (under 18) or own children can be discussed with your Personal Adviser.</p> <p>For those <b>aged 18-21yrs</b> we can support with travel up to 4 times a year to see the family/friends that are important to you if they live outside of the county (e.g. Kent) and they cannot visit by bus (living in the UK), we can purchase the most cost effective train tickets for you (purchased on-line).</p> <p>If you have lost contact with your family from your country of origin, we will support you by linking you with agencies who help to trace families (for example British Red Cross)</p>	<p>You will need to let your Personal Adviser know who is important to you, giving you positive support so that we can help you to make contact with them.</p> <p>You need to let us know who you would like to have as your next of kin for emergency issues.</p>
<p><b>Visiting places of worship</b>                      For those aged <b>18-21yrs</b>, if you wish to attend a specific place of worship, we will support your travel costs on special occasions (for example during festive periods). We will fund up to £100 for the year and we will purchase the train tickets for you.</p>	<p>If you need support in finding a safe place of worship closest to you, please speak to your Personal Adviser.</p>

## Useful contact information

Our 18+ Care Leavers Team offices	
Worrall House 03000 421 124	30 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4AE
Thistley Hill 03000 410 701	Melbourne Avenue Dover Kent CT16 2JH
Adult Social Care teams and Young People's teams from age 18 Young People's teams 16-17	<a href="mailto:social.services@kent.gov.uk">social.services@kent.gov.uk</a> 03000 41 61 61 03000 41 11 11
The Sunlight Centre <i>Drop-in</i>	105 Richmond Road Gillingham Kent ME7 1LX
Information zone	3 Palace Avenue Maidstone Kent ME26 6NF

### Feedback or suggestions about Virtual School Kent?

The Young Adult Council      [Vsk\\_participation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Vsk_participation@kent.gov.uk)    03000 419163

### Websites with helpful information regarding training providers in Kent and apprenticeships:

<https://www.readytoworkkent.co.uk/>

<http://www.apprenticekent.com/home>

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training>

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering>

### You may also find useful...

Benefits                      [www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/entitlement](http://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/entitlement)

Solicitor                      [www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor)

Care Leavers Association      [www.careleavers.com](http://www.careleavers.com)                      0161 826 0214

Care Leavers Foundation      [www.thecareleaversfoundation.org](http://www.thecareleaversfoundation.org)                      01678 540 598

Refugee Council                      [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)                      02073466700

New Horizon Youth Centre	<a href="http://www.nhyouthcentre.org.uk">www.nhyouthcentre.org.uk</a>	020 7388 5580
Citizens Advice Bureau	<a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk">www.citizensadvice.org.uk</a>	03444 111 444
Shelter	<a href="http://www.shelter.org.uk">www.shelter.org.uk</a>	0808 800 4444
Become	<a href="http://www.becomecharity.org.uk">www.becomecharity.org.uk</a>	0800 023 2033
Coram - Voice	<a href="http://www.voiceyp.org">www.voiceyp.org</a>	0808 800 5792
Young Lives Foundation	<a href="http://www.ylf.org.uk">www.ylf.org.uk</a>	0808 1640096

## Appendix 2: Care Leavers: Cohort Breakdown by District

As at 31 March 2023, there are a total of **1,943** Care Leavers (CL) supported by the Kent County Council, including those residing outside of Kent.

<i>District</i>	<i>Cohort Characteristics</i>
Ashford Borough Council	Total CLs: 119 Former Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC): 62 Citizen: 57 Currently identify as female: 33 Currently identify as male: 86 Aged 18-20 years: 80 Aged 21-25 years: 39 Considered disabled: 9 Not currently engaging in employment or education: 43
Canterbury City Council	Total CLs: 285 Former UASC: 178 Citizen: 107 Currently identify as female: 67 Currently identify as male: 217 Currently identify as indeterminate: 1 Aged 18-20 years: 171 Aged 21-25 years: 114 Considered disabled: 15 Not currently engaging in employment or education: 93
Dartford Borough Council	Total CLs: 47 Former UASC: 28 Citizen: 19 Currently identify as female: 17 Currently identify as male: 29 Currently identify as indeterminate: 1 Aged 18-20 years: 24 Aged 21-25 years: 23 Considered disabled: 4 Not currently engaging in employment or education: 23
Dover District Council	Total CLs: 79 Former UASC: 22 Citizen: 57 Currently identify as female: 25 Currently identify as male: 54 Aged 18-20 years: 51 Aged 21-25 years: 28 Considered disabled: 7

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	Not currently engaging in employment or education: 32
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	Total CLs: 95 Former UASC: 38 Citizen: 57 Currently identify as female: 37 Currently identify as male: 58 Aged 18-20 years: 63 Aged 21-25 years: 32 Considered disabled: 13 Not currently engaging in employment or education: 41
Gravesham Borough Council	Total CLs: 155 Former UASC: 124 Citizen: 31 Currently identify as female: 14 Currently identify as male: 141 Aged 18-20 years: 98 Aged 21-25 years: 57 Considered disabled: 7 Not currently engaging in employment or education: 51
Maidstone Borough Council	Total CLs: 164 Former UASC: 105 Citizen: 59 Currently identify as female: 28 Currently identify as male: 136 Aged 18-20 years: 107 Aged 21-25 years: 57 Considered disabled: 12 Not currently engaging in employment or education: 66
Sevenoaks District Council	Total CLs: 14 Former UASC: 2 Citizen: 12 Currently identify as female: 8 Currently identify as male: 6 Aged 18-20 years: 9 Aged 21-25 years: 5 Considered disabled: 5 Not currently engaging in employment or education: 8
Swale District Council	Total CLs: 111 Former UASC: 20 Citizen: 91 Currently identify as female: 66 Currently identify as male: 45 Aged 18-20 years: 60



	<p>Aged 21-25 years: 51          Considered disabled: 18          Not currently engaging in employment or education: 50</p>
Thanet District Council	<p>Total CLs: 151          Former UASC: 7          Citizen: 144          Currently identify as female: 65          Currently identify as male: 79          Aged 18-20 years: 91          Aged 21-25 years: 60          Considered disabled: 22          Not currently engaging in employment or education: 74</p>
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	<p>Total CLs: 30          Former UASC: 3          Citizen: 27          Currently identify as female: 15          Currently identify as male: 14          Currently identify as indeterminate: 1          Aged 18-20 years: 17          Aged 21-25 years: 13          Considered disabled: 6          Not currently engaging in employment or education: 12</p>
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	<p>Total CLs: 28          Former UASC: 9          Citizen: 19          Currently identify as female: 10          Currently identify as male: 18          Aged 18-20 years: 16          Aged 21-25 years: 12          Considered disabled: 3          Not currently engaging in employment or education: 12</p>
Medway Unitary Authority	<p>Total CLs: 125          Former UASC: 63          Citizen: 62          Currently identify as female: 26          Currently identify as male: 98          Currently identify as indeterminate: 1          Aged 18-20 years: 70          Aged 21-25 years: 55          Considered disabled: 12          Not currently engaging in employment or education: 53</p>

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## **People and Places Advisory Committee Work Plan (as at 20/09/23)**

### **30 November 2023:**

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural Prosperity Fund Updates
- Economic Development Strategy (incl. Place Campaign) – annual review
- Interim Leisure Operator – Monitoring Report
- Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation Results
- Review of Service Dashboards and Service Change Impact Assessments (SCIAs)
- Broomhill Bank School Internship Update
- Barometer Survey

### **5 March 2023**

- Community Grants 2024/25
- Citizens Advice Service Level Agreement 2024 - 2027

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