

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO HOUSING & WELLBEING COMMITTEE ON 24 JANUARY 2022

### REPORT

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Joint Working Protocol for Care Leavers</b>
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<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Claire Dyke, Housing Options Manager
<b>DATE:</b>	24 January 2022
<b>EXTN:</b>	37637
<b>AREA:</b>	Residential Services

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

West Sussex County Council and the seven Districts and boroughs within West Sussex have developed a joint working Protocol for Care Leavers.

The aim of the Protocol is to ensure that the accommodation needs and associated support in the community for young people leaving care are identified, and procedures put in place to ensure that agencies work in partnership to achieve this.

The partners signing up to this Protocol have the collective ambition to provide Care Leavers with the best possible start to their adult lives.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Housing & Wellbeing Committee approves:

- Adoption of the Joint Working Protocol for Care Leavers

#### 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Joint national guidance published in October 2020 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Education (DfE) sets out how children's services and local housing authorities should develop strategies to provide a range of accommodation options to meet the needs of young people as they leave care, as well as averting crisis's and homelessness.

1.2	As a result of this guidance, a Joint Working Protocol has been developed between West Sussex County Council and the seven districts and boroughs within it. The West Sussex Strategic Housing Group have been consulted on it and have recommended that it is adopted by all the partners.	
1.3	<p>The Protocol also takes account of the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Act 1996, parts 6 (Allocations) and 7 (Homelessness)</li> <li>• Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002</li> <li>• Childrens Act 1989</li> <li>• Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000</li> <li>• Children and Social Work Act 2017 – sections 1, 2 and 3</li> <li>• Statutory Guidance on housing, homelessness and Care Leavers</li> </ul>	
1.4	The purpose of the Protocol establishes the aims, roles and responsibilities of the partners towards accommodation pathways for Care Leavers. It outlines the respective duties for social care and local authorities in ensuring that Care Leavers are supported to move on to suitable accommodation.	
<b>2. PROPOSAL(S):</b>		
2.1	To adopt the Joint Working Protocol for Care Leavers.	
<b>3. OPTIONS:</b>		
3.1	To adopt the Protocol	
3.2	Not to adopt the Protocol. This is not considered a feasible option. The option not to adopt the Protocol would mean that Arun District Council would not be legally compliant, either with the legislation or with statutory guidance.	
<b>4. CONSULTATION:</b>		
4.1	Consultation has taken place with the Districts and boroughs in WSCC and the West Sussex Strategic Housing Officer Group.	
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
<p>Other groups/persons (please specify)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Homelessness Group (senior leads in homelessness from the seven Districts and boroughs)</li> <li>• West Sussex Strategic Housing Officer Group</li> </ul>	✓	

5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		✓
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		

<p><b>6. IMPLICATIONS:</b></p>
<p>6.1 <b>Financial</b> - there are no identified financial implications for the service through implementation of the Protocol.</p>
<p>6.2 <b>Legal</b> – The Council must comply with the legislation and statutory guidance around housing, homelessness, and Care Leavers.</p>
<p>6.3 The Protocol will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Strategic Homelessness Group and West Sussex Leaving Care Service.</p>
<p><b>7.0 REASON FOR THE DECISION:</b></p>
<p>7.1 To ensure that the Council works in partnership</p>
<p><b>8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b></p>
<p>8.1 <a href="#">Appendix 1 – Joint Working Protocol for Care Leavers</a></p>