

Corporate Parenting Board

28 May 2026

Leaving Care Service- annual report For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member:

Cllr C Sutton, Children, Families & Education

Local Councillor(s):

Senior Leadership Team:

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Statutory Authority:

Report status: Public

1. Executive summary (maximum of 500 words)

1.1 This annual report provides Dorset Council's Corporate Parenting Board with a comprehensive overview of the activity and impact of the Care Leavers Service between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. Its purpose is to ensure senior leaders have clear insight into how well the service is fulfilling the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities to care experienced young people.

Over the last 12 months, the service has continued to support Dorset's care leavers to achieve positive outcomes as they transition into adulthood. The report highlights key developments, achievements, and areas of progress, alongside the challenges that have shaped service delivery during the year. It also outlines how the service has worked to meet statutory duties, improve performance, and respond to the evolving needs of young people.

The report brings together performance data, service improvements, and feedback from care experienced young people to provide assurance on the quality and impact of support delivered. It also identifies priorities for the year ahead to further

strengthen outcomes and ensure Dorset's care leavers receive the opportunities, care, and support they deserve.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the Corporate Parenting Board:

- Notes and welcomes the positive outcomes achieved by Dorset's care leavers over the reporting period and endorses the Care Leavers Service's plans to further improve outcomes throughout 2026/27.
- Continues to promote and champion the corporate parenting responsibility across all areas of Dorset Council, ensuring every service contributes to improving the lives of care experienced young people.

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

- ### **3.1**
- For the Board to continue providing effective support, oversight, and challenge to the Care Leavers Service, ensuring that Dorset Council maximises its offer to care leavers and fulfils its corporate parenting duties to the highest possible standard.

4. The report

Dorset Council has high expectations and aspirations for all care leavers. As young people approach the transition from care, our focus is on ensuring they are well prepared, understand what to expect, and receive the emotional and practical support needed to thrive. We recognise that care leavers do not begin adulthood from the same starting point as their peers and may require additional support to build confidence, independence, and stability.

Our interdependence-based approach ensures that every care leaver from 16, has access to consistent, trusted support from a Personal Advisor (PA). PAs work alongside young people across key areas including housing, health, education, employment, financial wellbeing, and community engagement, helping them to remain connected and supported as they progress toward adulthood.

Since January 2023, the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) has included a dedicated judgement on the experiences and progress of care leavers. This has strengthened accountability for the quality of decision-making and support provided, while ensuring that care leavers' voices are central to inspection outcomes.

The March 2025 ILACS inspection judged the experiences and progress of care leavers in Dorset as Good. Inspectors recognised the strength of relationships between care leavers and their Personal Advisors, highlighting a committed and ambitious workforce that knows its young people well and is focused on securing the right support to meet their needs.

Context

Care leavers are young people aged 18 to 25 who have previously been in the care of a local authority. Their entitlements are defined in legislation and reflect differing care histories and levels of need. The four statutory categories are: eligible, relevant, former relevant, and qualifying care leavers, each carrying specific responsibilities for local authorities in relation to advice, support, and pathway planning.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 strengthened the Council's duties by requiring local authorities, from April 2018, to offer continuing Personal Advisor (PA) support to all care leavers up to the age of 25 where they choose to receive it. This marked a significant expansion from previous arrangements, which limited statutory support beyond age 21 in most circumstances.

In Dorset, we are currently providing active support to 96 care leavers aged 21–25, representing approximately 30% of the overall care leaver cohort. This

demonstrates both sustained engagement with services and the continued need for relationship-based support as young people navigate early adulthood.

Dorset Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy applies to all care experienced children and young people, with a particular focus on those preparing to leave care at ages 16 and 17 and those transitioning into adulthood up to age 25. The strategy sets out clear expectations and shared responsibilities across the Council and with partners to ensure care leavers are supported, enabled, and empowered to succeed.

The strategy is informed by key legislation including the Children Act 1989, Housing Act 1996, and Children and Social Work Act 2017, and is underpinned by five core outcomes:

- Improved access to education, employment, and training
- Greater stability, safety, and security
- Improved access to health and wellbeing support
- Increased financial stability and independence
- Stronger relationships, networks, and aspirational futures

Supporting care experienced young people is a shared responsibility across the whole Council and wider system. Dorset Council is committed to acting with the same care, ambition, and accountability that any good parent would expect for their own child. Our guiding principle remains that services must be "good enough for my child", and our ambition is to be recognised as an exemplary Corporate Parent.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, Dorset Council is a partner in the Bright Spots New Belongings Programme, alongside seven other local authorities. The programme uses nationally benchmarked survey data to understand what matters most to care leavers, and what contributes to a good life. Dorset's most recent survey was completed in February 2024, with findings received in November 2025.

The findings were reviewed in partnership with our Care Experienced Network, leading to the identification of key priorities and the development of a targeted action plan. Delivery and impact are monitored through the Corporate Parenting Partners Delivery Group, which provides assurance and oversight through regular reporting to the Corporate Parenting Board.

We have commissioned a further Bright Spots survey to take place in Summer 2026.

The 2024/25 Bright Spots survey highlighted several strengths in Dorset's offer to care leavers:

- 99% reported it was easy to contact their Personal Advisor.
- 91% felt involved in the development of their Pathway Plan.
- 95% confirmed access to the internet, with 97% having access to a smartphone.

The survey also identified clear areas for further improvement. Through engagement with the Care Experienced Network and wider participation activity, the following priorities have been agreed for the 2025–2027 period:

- Increasing the range and availability of suitable housing options for care leavers.
- Ensuring care experienced young people understand their care history and the reasons they were in care.
- Supporting young people to maintain and build positive relationships and support networks.
- Strengthening confidence in future prospects, including access to employment and training, financial independence, and improved emotional wellbeing.

The Care Leaver Team works closely with the Youth Voice Team to capture feedback from care experienced young people using a range of inclusive and accessible engagement approaches. Methods are regularly reviewed and strengthened in recognition that young people have different preferences and needs, and that no single approach is effective for all.

Engagement opportunities include digital tools, one-to-one telephone contact, and face-to-face conversations. In addition, the Head of Service for Care Leavers attends care experienced networking meetings, providing direct opportunities for young people to share their views, influence service development, and receive updates on progress against agreed priorities.

Over the past 12 months, the Care Experienced Network has played a significant role in shaping service development and support arrangements for care leavers. Feedback has highlighted the importance of support for care experienced parents. In response, we have reviewed and strengthened our offer, alongside reinforcing the importance of young people having the right people around them to provide consistent help, guidance, and advocacy.

Dorset Council makes a clear and explicit promise to all care leavers to share responsibility for their wellbeing, working collaboratively with partners and

communities to make a meaningful difference in their lives. This commitment reflects our belief that corporate parenting is a shared responsibility across the whole council and wider system. Full details of **The Dorset Promise** - Dorset Council are available online via the Dorset Council website.

The Local Offer for care leavers has been developed in consultation with care experienced young people and key partners. It provides clear, accessible information about the support available, including both statutory entitlements and additional discretionary assistance offered by Dorset Council. The Local Offer is shared with young people from age 16 as they prepare to leave care and is also available online. It is reviewed and updated regularly (twice a year) to ensure it remains relevant, responsive, and reflective of young people's changing needs and priorities.

The Local Offer reinforces Dorset Council's commitment to equity of support. While equality of access is important, we recognise that care leavers have diverse experiences, strengths, and challenges. Our approach is therefore proportionate and needs-led, ensuring each young person receives the right level and type of support to help them achieve comparable outcomes and thrive into adulthood.

In January 2025, Dorset launched the Graduating Care Southwest (GCSW) app, providing care experienced young people with easy access to both local and regional offers of support. The app compliments existing access routes, including online and hard-copy formats, ensuring information is available in ways that suit different preferences. Young people's feedback has been actively sought and used to shape the design and functionality of the app, supporting accessibility, engagement, and relevance.

Our service continues to be needs led, with a strong foundation in relational practice. We recognise that the quality of relationships between Personal Advisors and care leavers is central to achieving positive outcomes, and this remains a core principle guiding our work.

At the end of March 2026, Dorset Council was supporting 557 care leavers, of whom 319 were former relevant care leavers aged 18–25 and in receipt of an active service. Supporting 57% of former relevant care leavers indicates Dorset is maintaining contact with a significant proportion of eligible young people. This aligns with statutory duties under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and later legislation extending support to age 25

Personal Advisors (PAs) play a central role in delivering high-quality, co-produced pathway planning with young people and key partners. Pathway plans are reviewed at least every six months, or sooner where circumstances

change, to ensure they remain responsive to individual needs, aspirations, and progress.

Feedback from care leavers consistently identifies pathway planning as a strength. Young people value the structured, purposeful conversations with their PA, which support clear goal-setting, identification of need, and regular reflection on progress.

Performance in this area remains strong. As of March 2026, 96.55% of pathway plans were completed within statutory timescales. Robust management oversight ensures that any delay is addressed promptly and that plans are updated swiftly when young people's circumstances change. Our approach remains collaborative, strengths-based, and outcomes-focused.

Maintaining contact with care leavers is a core function of the PA role and underpins effective support delivery. Through consistent relationships and regular communication, PAs ensure young people can access appropriate support across accommodation, financial stability, education, employment, training, and preparation for adulthood. This proactive approach enables timely responses to emerging needs and contributes to positive outcomes.

Throughout this reporting period we have remained in contact with 99.13% of care leavers aged 17–25, exceeding the local target of 93%. This represents sustained high engagement and reflects the strength of relationships across the service. The Head of Service provides monthly assurance to the Senior Leadership Team, with focused oversight and trauma-informed approaches in place to re-engage the small number of young people who are temporarily out of touch.

In addition, all care leavers receive at least annual contact up to age 25, ensuring they remain informed about their entitlements and how to access support at any time. This reinforces Dorset's role as a committed and dependable corporate parent.

We actively support care leavers to build and maintain positive relationships and wider support networks. This includes delivery of the Staying Close and Mentoring programmes, which were funded throughout 2025/25 by the DfE (Department for Education). Funding for the mentoring project has now ended and we are reviewing and considering our future mentoring offer in consultation with our care experienced young people.

Staying Close for care leavers is best described as a relationship-based, gradual transition model that recognises young people leaving care still need stability, trusted adults and a sense of belonging—not a sudden jump to full

independence. It ensures young people leaving residential or similar care settings remain emotionally, practically and relationally connected to the people, places and support that helped them feel safe. Crucially, support is available when needed, not restricted to office hours or rigid processes. As part of the Staying close offer, we employ 2 care experienced young people as programme coordinators. This has continued to have a positive impact on engagement and participation.

Dorset's pathway to employment and mentoring for care leavers is a flexible, relationship-based approach that supports young people to build confidence, skills and stability as they move towards education, training or work. Through personalised planning, practical employment support and access to trusted mentors, care leavers are helped to progress at their own pace, overcome barriers and develop the resilience needed for sustained employment and independence.

Rather than focusing solely on employment outcomes, the pathway supports care leavers to build the foundations for sustained participation in education, employment or training (EET) In this reporting period we have continued to work collaboratively across the council to develop pathway to employment programmes and support for care leavers (18+). This aligns with the council priority to ensure that at least 65% of care leavers are engaged with active education, employment or training (known as EET). We have developed a local offer which provides mentoring support and/or targeted employment focussed interventions and we have successfully engaged 68 young people through this programme over the last 12 months.

To support smooth transitions, Personal Advisors are allocated from age 16 and work alongside social workers before young people leave care. This enables early relationship-building, continuity, and clear transition planning. Most care leavers benefit from support from the same PA from age 18 through to 21, and up to 25 where required, providing stability and a consistent trusted relationship over several years.

A focus of the last 12 months has been on developing a lifelong offer for care experienced adults, extending our support beyond age 25. A life-long offer for care leavers is the local authority's commitment to remain available and responsive throughout a care-experienced person's life, ensuring they can access advice, signposting and trusted relationships whenever they need them. It reflects a corporate parenting approach that prioritises connection, belonging and sustained advocacy beyond statutory age limits, recognising that care experience can have lifelong impacts and that independence is not a one-off achievement but a process over time. By promoting enduring relationships and

a sense of belonging, the offer strengthens long-term wellbeing and support into adulthood.

The number of care leavers who were formerly unaccompanied children has increased from 81 in March 2025 to 95 by March 2026, and this cohort is expected to continue growing. To maintain a high-quality, responsive service, an additional 1.0 FTE Personal Advisor has been secured, increasing the dedicated UASC PA team to five. This investment strengthens capacity and ensures consistent, relationship-based support, promoting stability and continuity for young people as they transition into adulthood.

When care-experienced young people become parents or are expecting a child, Dorset Council acts as their corporate grandparent. We are currently supporting 35 care-experienced young people who are pregnant, expectant, or parents.

In response to inspection findings and direct feedback from young people, we have updated and strengthened our offer to this group. The enhanced offer provides targeted, trauma-informed, relationship-based support delivered through mainstream and targeted pathways, including Family Hubs, peer mentoring support, Family Network Meetings, and enhanced health, housing, education, and employment support.

The approach prioritises early help, continuity, and empowerment, reduces stigma, and improves outcomes for both parents and their children, underpinned by strong multi-agency collaboration, workforce development, and co-production.

An enhanced local offer for care-experienced young people who are parents recognises that they face greater structural disadvantage, reduced family support, and higher scrutiny than their peers. A strengthened, tailored offer improves outcomes not only for young parents, but also for their children, services, and the wider system. We can ensure that Care-experienced young people who become parents are not left to cope alone, and their children get the best possible start in life.

Personal Advisors (PAs) provide tailored support to help young people navigate parenting alongside employment, benefits, housing, and changing relationships. Support is proportionate and responsive, with increased contact where needed to provide reassurance without creating over-dependence. Practical assistance is also available, including clothing grants, financial support for essential baby items, and the provision of a new baby essentials box.

Increasing participation in Education, Employment and Training (EET) remains a key priority. Progress has been achieved through expansion of

apprenticeships, enhanced mentoring and structured support. The introduction of a pre-employment programme for young people requiring additional preparation. Working closely with the Pathway to Employment Team, this approach has sustained strong EET performance, with 71.02% of care leavers aged 18–25 in EET as of March 2026, exceeding the council target and consistently outperforming Good + statistical neighbours.

Dorset Council currently employs 15 care-experienced young people in Council apprenticeship roles, with a further 10 apprenticeship opportunities secured for the next 12 months. These posts are targeted at care-experienced young people who are not currently in education, employment or training (NEET) and who have engaged successfully with pre-employment programmes. This represents a significant corporate parenting commitment and provides flexible, supportive employment opportunities that reflect the stability and nurture care-experienced young people need to progress into sustainable employment.

Support for care-experienced young people in Higher Education remains a clear strength. We have 24 care leavers are studying at university, including one doctoral student and two post-graduate students. Young people benefit from enhanced Personal Adviser support, a Higher Education bursary, and practical assistance with accommodation during university holiday periods where required. This holistic offer supports both academic achievement and emotional wellbeing.

As of 31 March 2026, of the 319 active care leavers aged 18–25, 48 were engaged in full-time training, 53 in part-time training, and 92 in education. This demonstrates a wide range of progression pathways and reflects sustained focus on supporting engagement in education and training as a foundation for positive long-term outcomes.

Dorset Council has an established protocol with local Jobcentre Plus offices to provide coordinated support for care-experienced young people entering Education, Employment, Apprenticeships, Voluntary Work or Training. This includes early access to benefits, smooth transitions when leaving care, and timely payments where required. Strategic oversight is provided by a Senior Personal Adviser with lead responsibility for Education, Training and Employment, ensuring a focused and joined-up approach.

Personal Advisers support care leavers to access and sustain EET opportunities, with additional multi-agency input where young people are not currently engaged. This ensures coordinated tracking, timely intervention, and encouragement to participate in alternative learning or developmental activity while progressing toward employment or education.

Our overarching aim is to enable care-experienced young people to secure and sustain paid employment through tailored, strengths-based pathways aligned to individual aspiration, readiness, and long-term wellbeing.

Housing continues to be a key priority for both care-experienced young people and the Council. Dorset continues to take a strong corporate approach to securing and sustaining suitable accommodation, with 98.43% of care leavers living in appropriate housing as of March 2026. It is important to note that over the last 12 months over 95% of care leavers live in suitable housing arrangements.

Where accommodation is identified as unsuitable, robust escalation and management oversight arrangements are in place to ensure timely intervention. We have maintained 100% compliance with four-weekly supervision for all young people in unsuitable accommodation, ensuring risks are actively monitored and addressed.

This reporting period has seen a significant reduction in the number of care leavers accessing B&B accommodation. When and where they have, for those living in Dorset we have been able to utilise our own housing, work collaboratively with housing partners and enable young people to move into suitable housing within a few days. There is more of a challenge to identify suitable housing for young people who do not live in Dorset, where we do not have relationships with the local housing teams. We do reach out to convene urgent discussions along with the young person so they are aware of the options and choices available to them and where appropriate we will support with accessing private rented housing, in the area of their choice.

Ongoing engagement with care-experienced young people through the Sufficiency Strategy informs future housing provision. There is a commitment to develop additional housing options for care experienced young people who are ready to leave supported accommodation and move into full independent living.

The chart below shows the breakdown of the different housing arrangements for our young people as of 31 March 2026.

Type	Number
Independent living	181
Semi independent	36
Supported lodgings	7
Foyers	26
Staying put	36

With parents/relatives	26
Community Home	2
Unsuitable (custody, B&B, homeless)	5
Total	319

Dorset Council has expanded the availability of local, affordable accommodation for care leavers, now providing housing for up to 24 young people across four properties in the Weymouth and Portland areas. Our housing strategy identified the need to create up to 50 different housing options for care leavers over 5 years. We currently have shared accommodation at Clarence and Sydney (three places each), dedicated provision at Leon for six former unaccompanied children, and a mix of shared and individual options at Kirtleton. Kirtleton, Clarence, and Sydney, also provide a short-term “crash pad” to enable young people to have a safe and suitable home, preventing the need/use of unsuitable accommodation.

Further expansion is planned for 2026 with the development of a three-bedroom shared property in Bridport, strengthening local capacity and ensuring care leavers have safe, stable, and accessible housing as they move toward independence. Sufficiency board continues to have oversight of the housing strategy and work towards continued increase of council owned properties for care leavers.

Within the Care Leaver Service, dedicated Housing Officers work alongside Personal Advisors to support young people to sustain tenancies and reduce homelessness within Clarence, Leon and Kirtleton. This includes support with move-on planning and ensuring accommodation remains safe, well maintained and of a high standard.

Through the rough sleeping grant, we have been able to secure funding to support a Senior Personal Advisor role focused on preventing rough sleeping and promoting emotional health and wellbeing. This is enabling us to strengthen early intervention and timely, relationship-based support.

Strong partnership working and clear protocols with housing services and providers ensure care experienced young people can access timely support when homeless or at risk of homelessness. This is strengthened by a dedicated Senior Personal Advisor role focused on rough sleeping prevention and emotional wellbeing, enabling targeted early intervention. As part of this approach, tenancy readiness training has been developed with BCHA for young people aged 16–17 and 18+, delivered through flexible face to face and online

formats to promote tenancy sustainability and support successful transitions into adulthood.

Our partnerships with private landlords, estate agents and property management companies both within and beyond Dorset have continued to grow, enabling us to secure accommodation in this area for 15 care leavers. These properties range from shared houses and flats to self-contained units, all centrally located to ensure good access to education, support networks and local communities.

Staying Put is a policy and practice framework that enables young people who have been living with foster carers to remain in that family home beyond the age of 18, when they would otherwise be expected to leave care. It recognises that most young people in the general population do not leave home suddenly at 18 and continue to rely on family support well into adulthood. Staying Put seeks to replicate this experience for care leavers by allowing them to transition to independence gradually, within the stability of a trusted home environment.

We have continued to grow our staying put numbers increasing to 36 in 2025/26. We continue to review our procedures to ensure staying put discussions start early with foster carers and young people as part of pathway planning so that arrangements post 18 are clear and in place in advance of a young person reaching 18. Responsibility for the oversight and management of staying put is now held within the care leavers team (within our lifelong links service) which has enabled us to improve clarity, equity, accountability and enhance oversight.

Supporting the physical and emotional health of care-experienced young people remains a priority. This is strengthened through a dedicated nurse for care leavers, close partnership with health services, and the introduction of a discrete health record marker (subject to consent) to promote trauma-informed, personalised care.

All young people receive a Health Passport to support effective communication with health professionals, are registered with a local GP, and have improved access to dental provision where needed. Partnership working with adult mental health services has been enhanced through dedicated management links, improving awareness of pathways and timely access to support.

In addition, through collaboration with Coram Voice and the Care Experienced Network, the Ask Me What Matters programme will go live in Q2 2026, enabling clearer understanding, reporting, and response to emotional wellbeing needs at both individual and service levels.

The Care Leaver Team has maintained a stable workforce, with successful recruitment to Personal Advisor vacancies and effective arrangements in place to ensure continuity of support during periods of staff sickness.

Reflective supervision continues to be strengthened, enabling Personal Advisors to demonstrate a clear understanding of their young people and intended outcomes. Supervision frequency and quality have improved year on year, with 98.73% of young people receiving supervision at least every eight weeks in March 2026, compared to 95.95% in March 2025 and 91.39% in March 2024.

Supervision records are written directly to young people, evidencing well-embedded, reflective, and person-centred practice, supported by strong and effective management oversight.

The Business Intelligence Dashboard is embedded into day-to-day management practice, with the Leaving Care Team remains the second highest user across Children's Services. It is used routinely to monitor key areas of practice, including accommodation suitability, Education, Employment and Training (EET), activity status, caseload management, supervision compliance, and the timeliness and quality of pathway planning. This supports informed decision-making, effective oversight, and continuous improvement.

The service provides robust monthly performance oversight to Executive and Corporate Directors through the Performance Board, regular reporting to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Delivery Group, and exception reporting to the Corporate Parenting Board. This framework benefits from strong challenge from members and care-experienced young people, enabling early identification of risks and areas requiring additional focus and supporting continuous improvement.

Our vision for the next 12 months is to:

- **Formally launch our lifelong/beyond 25 offer.** We will develop and embed our lifelong offer to support more care leavers to reconnect with people who are important to them or meet new people who could be supportive.
- **Maintain Education, Employment and Training (EET)** for care leavers 18-25 above 65%. We want to continue to provide the mentoring pathway to employment programme as well as increasing council apprenticeships and identifying work experience and employment opportunities within the public and private sectors.

- To **increase the choice of housing options** for young people 18+ within Dorset. We want to increase the provision of high-quality accommodation that feels safe and is affordable in Dorset. This includes increasing the number of young people in a staying put arrangement, accessing supported housing alongside independent housing options.
- To **launch the “ask me what matters”** programme, within pathway planning to support our care leavers with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. This will include strengthening our lifelong links service to ensure that care leavers have identified network of support from family, friends and professionals to meet their changing needs. We also need to work collaboratively with health partners to ensure the needs of care leavers are considered within the CAMHS transformation programme, with an ambition for the offer to extend to 25.

Despite the number of care leavers increasing, we have continued to strengthen the service and support we provide. The chart below indicates the distance travelled over the last 12 months for our key performance areas. Despite a small reduction in 2 areas, performance remains above our target.

Indicator	March 2025	March 2026	DoT
Total care leavers	558	557	
% care leavers in touch	99.33%	99.37%	
% care leavers 19-21 suitable accommodation	96.00%	96%	
% care leavers 17-25 EET	68.20%	67.34%	
% care leavers 19-21 EET	68.00%	69%	
% care leavers (active) 8 weekly supervision	95.95%	98.73%	
% care leavers with up-to-date pathway plan by end of month 17-25	92.67%	96.55%	

The Care Leaver Team has a strong understanding of both service strengths and the challenges faced by care-experienced young people. Over the past year, there has been a clear focus on improving the quality, consistency, and impact of support. This has been driven by meaningful consultation and engagement with care-experienced young people, ensuring their feedback

directly informs practice, service development, and priority setting, and supports a culture of continuous improvement.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 N/A

6. Legal considerations

6.1 Statutory duties- Children Act 1989 & 2000 as amended.

The Local Authority must safeguard and promote the welfare of eligible, relevant, and former relevant young people (s.23C).

There is a legal duty to: Provide a Personal Adviser (PA) up to age 25 (if requested) Maintain and review a Pathway Plan & Provide accommodation and financial support, where required.

Children & Social Work Act 2017- corporate parenting principles.

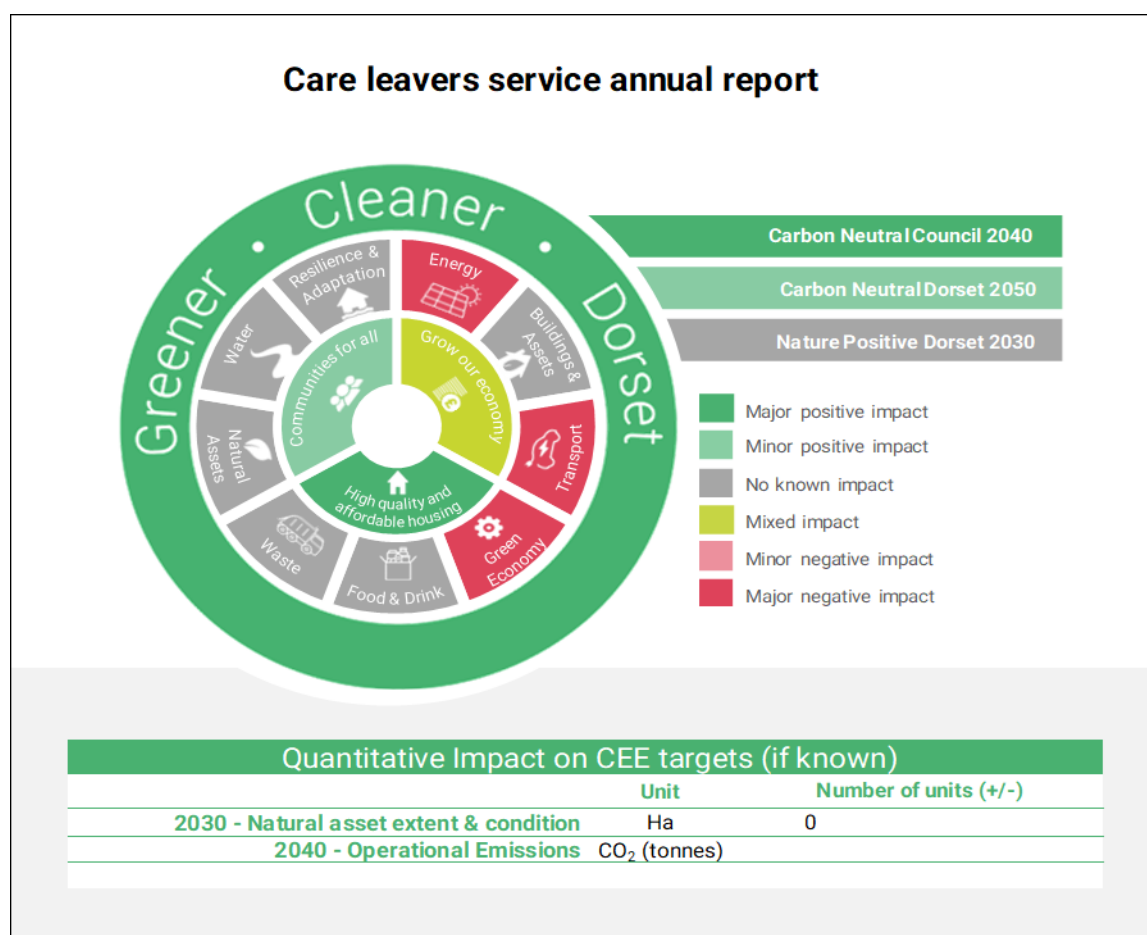
The Council must demonstrate it is acting in line with the 7 Corporate Parenting Principles, including: Promoting best outcomes, ensuring safety and stability and preparing young people for adulthood and independence.

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no financial implications from this report, and all have been provided within budget of the service

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

8.1



There are no environmental factors to consider other than young people living out of the area, Personal Advisors meeting face to face with young people requiring at times long travel times.

We as a service try reducing our carbon footprint by using trains and linking Personal Advisors to young people near one another reducing the number of Personal Advisors traveling.

9. Well-being and health implications

While the report does not introduce new risks, it describes service activity that has a clear positive impact on the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of care-experienced young people. This includes stable accommodation, strong relational support, access to health services, targeted emotional wellbeing initiatives, and trauma-informed practice. No adverse health or wellbeing implications have been identified.

10. Other implications

10.1 N/A

11. Risk implications

11.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

12. Equalities

The report does not propose changes to policy or service eligibility and therefore does not introduce negative equality impacts. Instead, it describes the delivery, impact and planned development of support for care leavers, a group that experiences disproportionate disadvantage across multiple equality domains.

The activity set out in the report is assessed as having a positive and supportive equality impact.

Dorset Council formally recognises care experience as a protected characteristic (from September 2023), strengthening accountability for addressing discrimination and inequality experienced by care-experienced people.

No adverse equality impacts have been identified. This report supports, rather than limits, equality outcomes.

13. Appendices

13.1 N/A

14. Background papers

14.1 N/A

15. Report sign-off

15.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)

