



Date of Meeting: 15 July 2019

Lead Member: Cllr Andrew Parry - Lead Member for Children, Education and Early Help

Lead Officer: Sarah Parker – Executive Director for People - Children

Executive Summary:

This report gives detailed information in respect of completion rates for pathway plans for looked after young people aged 16 and 17.

85% of young people aged 16 & 17 have a pathway plan in place though only 79% have a plan which has been updated within the last 7 months. Action is required to improve performance in this area. During the next 8 weeks, there will be a clear focus on ensuring that all young people who should have a pathway plan have one which has been updated within 7 months.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

Not applicable

Budget:

Not applicable

Risk Assessment:

N/A

Other Implications:

None identified

Recommendation:

N/A

Reason for Recommendation:

Appendices:

N/A

Background Papers:

N/A

Officer Contact

Name: Tanya Hamilton Fletcher

Tel: 01305 225937

Email: tanya.hamilton-fletcher@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

1. Background

1.1: There is a statutory requirement for all Looked After Children (LAC) to have a care plan in place and for this to be reviewed regularly through the LAC reviewing process. These reviews must take place at no more than six monthly intervals and are chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). The care plan should be updated following each review to reflect any changes to the plan

1.2: The care plan must set out the long-term plan (permanency) for the child's upbringing and state how the child's developmental needs in relation to health (physical and emotional/behavioural), education, identity, family and social relationships, social presentation and self-care skills are to be met.

1.3: From birth up to 15 years this is recorded on a LAC care plan document and from 16yrs onwards this document is replaced with a pathway plan. The pathway plan document has an increased focus on the development of independence and life skills and forward planning including transition to adulthood. The first Pathway plan has to be completed within 6 months of the young person's 16th birthday and updated as part of every subsequent LAC review

1.4: It is good practice to co-produce all care plans with the looked after child (dependant on age and understanding) but there is a particular expectation that the pathway plan is a coproduced document so that the young person's wishes and aspirations can be fully captured and brought into planning for the future. If the plan is not cowritten with the young person, the plan should be fully discussed with them as soon as practicable.

1.5: Performance is monitored in two ways, firstly by how many children and young people have a plan in place, and secondly, by identifying how many of those plans have been updated within the last 7 months, i.e. following the most recent LAC review.

1.6: As part of its quality assurance role, the IRO Service reaches a judgement at each LAC review on the quality of the looked after child plan using the OFSTED ratings.

1.7: The Service Manager Care and Support and the IRO Manager meet monthly to track and review performance regarding care/pathway plans. The quality of care/ pathway plans has shown a steady and sustained improvement in quality over the past six months (as judged by the IRO Service)

2: Completion rates (as of 04/07/19)Table 1: Overall LAC with a plan (includes all teams and both LAC Care Plan and Pathway Plans)

Percentage of all LAC with a plan (care or pathway)	95%
Percentage of all LAC with a plan completed within past 7 months	89%

Table 2: LAC 16/17yrs with a Pathway Plan within Care and Support (excludes District teams)

Team	No of 16 & 17yr olds	No of 16/17yrs olds with pathway plan	No of 16/17yr olds with pathway plan within 7 months	% with pathway plan	% with pathway plan within 7 months
13-25 LAC Team 1	38	36	34	94%	89%
13-25 LAC Team 2	49	39	34	79%	69%
CWAD East	4	2	2	50%	50%
CWAD S'th	10	9	9	90%	90%
CWAD West	5	2	2	40%	40%
Totals	103	88	81	85%	79%

2.1: The first table shows overall care / pathway plan completion across the whole of Care and Protection. This is as of 04.07.19.

2.2: Table 2 identifies the 16 & 17 year olds who should have a pathway plan by virtue of age. District teams have been excluded from these figures as there were only 8 such young people allocated within District teams at the point that the report was run and were recent care entries.

2.3: As can be seen by table 1, the percentage of looked after children with a plan was 95% on 01.07.19 and has been consistently above 90% for several months. This figure will not be 100% as it includes children that have recently entered care and for whom the LAC plan has yet to be confirmed. The expectation is that the LAC care plan is written after the first LAC review which takes place within 4 weeks of care entry

2.4: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) aged 16 and over have to have a pathway plan within 3 months of entry into care.

2.5: Caution should be applied to the CWAD figures for pathway plans as 17yr olds within that service with complex needs will be in active transition to adult services and have a detailed transition plan setting out their adult needs which can become the primary planning document. Numbers are also very small and can affect percentage scores significantly for that service as with District teams. Additionally, CWAD will occasionally have 16/17yr olds entering care and so the 4-week period to write the plan described in 2.3 will apply impacting completion percentages.

2.6: Over the 8 weeks there will be a continued focus on the completion of pathway plans, both overall and within the 7 month timescale. The recent development of the Mosaic dashboard provides an up to date accessible tool to monitor performance that is updated daily direct from Mosaic. This is monitored by the Service Manager Care and Support and a whole service workshop involving Care and Support Operational Managers and Team Managers will be held on 08.07.19 led by the Service Manager.

2.7: It is intended that a new pathway plan (please note name may change dependent on feedback from young people) is produced, codesigned with young people. This will assist in ensuring that this is a meaningful document for the looked after young person and something that is valued and helpful for them and those within their support network to plan for their transition to adulthood