

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2019

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CARE LEAVERS LEISURE OFFER

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members in respect of the progress made for a Nottinghamshire Local Offer for Care Leavers with specific respect to the development of a countywide leisure offer following Policy & Finance Committee's approval to support this initiative at its meeting 21 February 2019.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 There are approximately 70,000 children in care in England at any one time. Many of these young people when they leave care face serious disadvantage in their lives, compared to their peers. While most young people continue to rely on their families long after they are 18, young people leaving care often do so without the support of a loving family. This is the context for Section 2 of the Children & Social Care Act 2017 which requires each local authority (including District Councils) to publish a Local Offer for its care leavers (18 – 25 years). It should provide information about all the services and support, statutory and discretionary that is available to them from each local authority.

2.2 The Local Offer should include details of local authority services and support that could help care leavers' transition to adulthood and independent living in relation to health and well-being, positive relationships, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society.

2.3 Through the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities Chief Executives' Group, the County Council and District/Borough Councils agreed to create one joint single Care Leaver Offer for Nottinghamshire.

2.4 Accordingly the Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils Leisure leads have developed a consistent leisure offer for care Leavers which will provide free access to fitness suites, swimming and exercise classes.

2.5 The offer will broadly follow the current membership process and will be accessible for care leavers up to the age of 25. The care leaver can choose to access the offer independently or with the assistance of their support worker should this be necessary and the intention is to maximise the take up of the offer by the 57 young people currently eligible to have free access to the leisure offer.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 That the Leisure & Environment Committee note the progress made in respect of the Nottinghamshire local authorities leisure offer for care leavers and support the proposal to launch the initiative on 1 July which will be the first co-ordinated countywide offer nationally.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 There are no equality implications in respect of the various protected characteristic groups in connection with this proposal. Active4Today offers leisure opportunities, on behalf of the District Council, to the whole community and it is anticipated that the introduction of this offer for care leavers will be neutral in this respect.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

5.1 The impact on A4T's income forecast will be minimal compared to the potential benefits care leavers will gain should they take advantage of the offer. The number of care leavers is so small that the free offer can comfortably be absorbed by A4T and the offer supports the Community Plan Object 8, 'Reduce levels of deprivation in target areas and remove barriers to social mobility across the district'. Furthermore the impact of the scheme will be closely monitored and reported to Leisure and Environment Committee annually as the scheme progresses in order that the positive impacts of the scheme can be recorded and the offer reviewed as may be appropriate.

7.0 Financial Implications (FIN19-20/582)

7.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council arising from this report.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION:

That Leisure & Environment Committee note the report.

Reason for Recommendation

To update Members on the progress being made in respect of providing appropriate support to Care Leavers to enhance their quality of life.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Andy Hardy, Senior Health & Community Relations Officer, on 01636 655708.

Matthew Finch
Director – Communities & Environment