

<b>Committee:</b> Safeguarding Sub Committee – For Information	<b>Dated:</b> 19/06/2023
<b>Subject:</b> Care Leaver Compact	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	3, 10
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Rachel Talmage, Head of Service, People Department, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

### Summary

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact provides a framework for developing consistency, breadth and quality in the support offered to London’s Care Leavers.<sup>1</sup> The compact was established in early 2022 to deliver a consistent and high-quality offer for care leavers across the capital.

This paper sets out our current progress against the Compact and areas for development in 2023–24. Our ambition is to achieve an excellent outcome for every child.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

*National*

#### 1. London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) Programme: Care Leaver’s compact

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact will provide a framework for a consistent and high-quality offer across the capital. The City of London is involved in the LIIA programme.

2. It is a duty under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 that England’s local authorities must publish information about the services offered for care

<sup>1</sup> [Care Leavers Compact – LIIA](#)

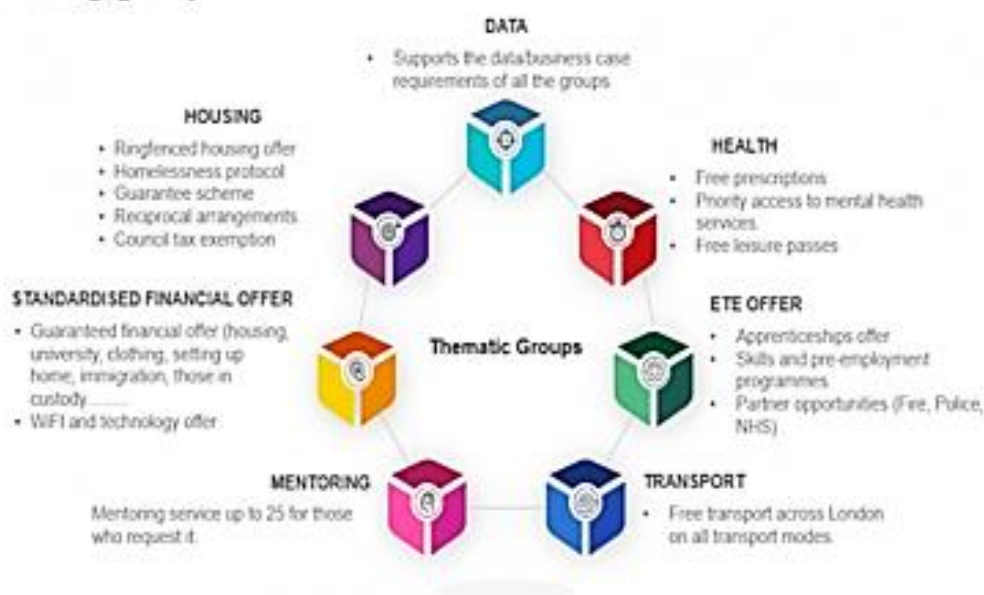
leavers. Each London borough therefore has a care leaver offer, but these are individual to each area and do not provide a consistent and shared offer for our care leavers. Care leavers do not always live in the borough responsible for them, which poses further challenges with the variation in offers. It is also important that the offer to care leavers reaches beyond services provided by local authorities. Partners such as health, education and transport have important roles to play, as do the private and voluntary sectors.

3. Ofsted has introduced a new, separate judgement to the framework for Inspecting Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS). Our current care leaver local offer is published on the City of London website, and is in easy read printed format appended to this report (see Appendix 1).

### Current Position

4. The Service Development Plan 2023–24 sets out plans to meet every aspect of the covenant for our care leavers. Our care leaver offer is midway through revision and will be published in the summer 2023.
5. The current areas for commitment across the covenant are shown in the graphic below.

### Areas to be explored as part of the guarantee – Our thematic working groups



### Key Data

6. The covenant ambitions are set out below, including the current position underneath each sub-heading.
7. **Council tax scheme for care leavers**
  - a. We have a council tax scheme for care leavers.
  - b. Care leavers aged up to 25 who reside in the City are exempt at source; the corporation does not bill these young people.

- c. Care leavers aged up to 25 who reside outside the City, and who are eligible to pay council tax, ensure that they have applied for any discounts from their local council; their council tax is paid direct from the corporation to their local authority.

Note: No care leaver supported by the City has to pay council tax to age 25.

- d. At present we do not offer council tax exemption at source for care leavers supported by other local authorities who live in the City.

Note: At present we are unaware of any care leavers residing within the City of London boundary. Any amendment to this offer would likely have minimal impact on the budget.

## **8. Housing policy exempting care leavers from becoming intentionally homeless**

- a. Our housing policy ensures that care leavers are offered accommodation/are supported to access private renting, and are not ever in a position to be found intentionally homeless.

Note: No care leaver supported by the City has ever been found intentionally homeless.

- b. We have a rent deposit scheme for care leavers aged 18-25 for whom private rented accommodation is assessed as a suitable option.

Note: This option has been taken up by two care leavers in 2022–23, as these young people did not want to take up permanent accommodation within the City of London estates.

## **9. All care leavers up to the age of 25 are to be found as being in ‘priority need’ under homelessness legislation**

- a. Our care leavers are at the top band (band F) for bidding for City of London accommodation.

## **10. A joint protocol between Housing and Children’s Services for Care Leavers**

- a. There is a joint protocol between our two services, and the services sit in the same department. This protocol is in line with good practice advice, including tenancy support and banding. The protocol will be revised again in 2023–24 as set out in the Service Development Plan.
- b. The housing lead sits on the Child in Care and Care Leavers Strategic Development Group, and regular housing/social care meetings are held.

Note: The Housing department has created a video for care leavers about realistic expectations of their new studio flats. The Housing team ensures that every care leaver has an allocated tenancy support officer. No care leaver has ever been evicted from their home.

**11. Signatory to the Care Leaver Covenant in terms of its role as a large employer.**

- a. The Corporation is signed up to the covenant. The covenant is both separate and connected to the compact.<sup>2</sup> The covenant is a national improvement programme, following governmental commitment to care leavers. The Compact was established in early 2022, supported by the LIIA to deliver a consistent and high-quality offer for care leavers across London. The compact asks local authorities to sign up to the care leaver covenant.<sup>3</sup>

**12. Ring-fenced opportunities for care leavers within the local authority**

- a. This is an area for improvement, and needs buy-in across all departments of the Corporation. Employment, internships, work experience, and apprenticeships are not yet ring-fenced for our own care leavers, and this will be an ongoing area of development.

**13. Bespoke care leaver pre-employment and employment programmes**

- a. Adult education does not offer bespoke care leaver pre-employment and employment programmes.
- b. Care leavers have the support of Prospects, Information Advice and Guidance. Social workers and the Virtual School Head are creative in using voluntary sector opportunities.

Note: No young person has completed an adult education programme in 2022–23.

**14. Social value contracting approach that benefits care leavers (whether around ETE or other areas)**

- a. The Corporation does use a social value approach, and this work was taken forward in 2022 by central strategy, the Head of Social Care and Early Help and Education, and Early Years.

Note: Potential developments that might assist could include central monitoring of impact along with contract monitoring; this will be explored as part of ongoing development work.

**Corporate & Strategic Implications**

***Corporate plan***

- 15. Work supporting care leavers sits within a commitment to a flourishing society, ensuring equality of opportunity. We would like to see equal outcomes for our young people: being able to access well-paying jobs and receive a good quality education. Our ambition for care leavers is equivalent to our hopes for our own children, and that they outperform us and achieve more than us.

***Financial implications***

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<sup>2</sup> [Home - Care Leaver Covenant \(mycovenant.org.uk\)](https://mycovenant.org.uk)

<sup>3</sup> [Care Leavers Compact – LIIA](#)

16. Creation of bespoke educational/employment programmes would affect the Adult Education and Skills budget. Meeting the free travel for care leavers impacts on the budget for Children's Social Care and Early Help service.

**Resource implications**

17. If central procurement reported on social value contracting, this would be minimal in terms of resources.

**Legal implications – none**

**Risk implications**

18. Providing a full, creative, enrichment programme and ensuring that young people are provided with opportunity and courses that will stretch them offers an antidote to boredom which can lead to risk/unhealthy behaviours on an individual basis. The City of London will be subject to an Ofsted inspection in this area. There is a risk that, should the impact of the offer continue to innovate and grow, the City of London would suffer reputational risk.

**Equalities implications**

19. It is hoped that care leavers will be adopted as a protected characteristic by the City of London, and that our care leavers will be considered in every Equalities Impact Assessment, and therefore corporate parenting outside the Department of Community and Children's Services will be visible and impactful.

**Climate implications – none**

**Security implications – None**

**Conclusion**

20. The Pan London Care Leavers Compact sets out a comprehensive ambitious offer for all London local authorities to sign up to. The City of London is well positioned in this regard, having adopted many of the provisions already, following national research and findings.

21. There are several key areas which would make a huge difference to our care leavers: notably being supported via a protected characteristic; employment/education offers; and procurement being accountable as to whether social value contracting is impacting our young people.

**Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – City of London Care Leaver Offer

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