

**Leaving Care Safety Panel**

**Terms of Reference**

**Rationale**

Children in care/care leavers under the age of 18 years are robustly supported through child protection procedures, such as the use of strategy discussions, CRE processes and child protection conferences but once a young person turns 18 years there are less structures in place. It is also acknowledged that care leavers can face adversity and have specific vulnerabilities around exploitation and risky relationships because of their adverse childhood experiences (ACE).

For that reason, Derby City Council’s Leaving Care Service hold a monthly Safety Panel meeting that will have multiagency representation and is intended to help reduce risk for those identified as being exposed to or at potential risk of significant harm, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.

The panel will work parallel to any legislation that is used to protect adults and will seek guidance from an adult social care representative to ensure that adult safeguarding procedures are adhered to.

The leaving care Personal Advisor (PA) may refer their young person to the Safety Panel if they have concern for a young person over the age of 18 years where they are either potentially or are evidentially experiencing any issue that is highlighted in the Care Leavers

**Risk of Exploitation protocol**

The intention is that there is a multiagency approach to disrupting risky situations faced by care leavers so that the risk is managed at the most appropriate threshold of risk (as identified in the Young Adults Risk Assessment – YARE). This will provide a holistic consideration to the needs of the young person and a collective responsibility to work towards a reduction of risk. There will be actions identified, which will be monitored and reviewed at the following Safety Panel until it is agreed that the panel discussion is no longer required for that specific young person.

This process is only for care leavers, not children in care where there are separate statutory and local responses in place.

**Panel Members**

* Lead for Leaving Care – Team Manager (Chair) – on alternating basis
* Panel Minuting Team to minute meetings.
* Adult Safeguarding Lead – social care and mental health representation
* Police (SOCEX Team)
* Housing
* Living Well/Young Adults
* Probation/Youth Justice
* Personal Advisor allocated to the case (who will present the case to panel)
* Other agencies involved with young people will also be invited

**Logistics**

The Safety Panel will be held every 4 weeks. It will be the last Tuesday of each month between 09.30 hrs - 11:30 hrs

Each case will be discussed for 30 minutes. There will be 3 new cases discussed each month and 30 minutes to review cases that have been previously stepped down from medium and high risk.

Cases that have remained high risk will return to Panel for a quarterly review. These cases will be raised by the Team Manager for views and any necessary actions. If there is a need for information on a specific case for review at Panel, the chairing Team Manager to share information with Panel members before the meeting takes place.

The meetings will be conducted using Microsoft Teams, unless there is a need for a face-face meeting for extenuating circumstances

All agencies will have a copy of the confidentiality expectations prior to the meeting, sent by the team co-ordinator.

All members will be given data regarding the young person to be discussed one week prior to the meeting (along with the completed YARE) so that they can research any information they hold, and they will have the opportunity to consider whether it is information that should be shared on the day.

Minutes will be distributed by Panel Minuting no later than one week from the date the meeting was held. These will be sent to the Panel members, allocated Personal Advisor and the Chair of the Panel.

There will be an expectation that if an organisation has a representative that they will filter the necessary information to the relevant person in their service to ensure there is no gap in the process.

**Information Sharing**

The information shared will pertain to the risks identified to the young person from ongoing assessments between partner agencies and the sharing of this information to inform safety assessment and planning is managed through the existing information sharing agreement between partner agencies who make up the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.