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|  | **From:** | David Lamb  Team Manager  Care Experienced People | **Date:** | 23rd May 2023 |
| **To:** | Corporate Parenting Board | **cc:** |  |
| **Subject:** | **The role and responsibilities of Personal Advisors in the Care Experienced People Team.** | | | |

### **KNOWSLEY**

# *Children Looked After Briefing*

1. **Reason for Briefing**

To provide update on work defining the role and expectations of the Personal Advisor’s in the Care Experienced People Team.

**2. Background**

The Personal Advisor (PA) role was introduced in the Children Act 1989 to provide support for Care Leavers during their transition to adult life. The role has evolved since its inception, but the primary aim remains to ensure that care experienced young people have access to the right support, advice and guidance to help them achieve their goals and aspirations.

The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the role and expectations placed on Knowsley’s PA’s and whilst not exhaustive of the varied work of Personal Advisors, it is intended as a guide to promoting engagement in a timely way and in seeking to provide the essential advice, support and guidance all young people need to enable best outcomes in achieving independence in adulthood.

Development of the Personal Advisor role and responsibilities included one to one consultation with Personal Advisors and review within the Care Experienced People team meeting. Social Workers in the Young People’s Team have also been consulted, as providing a key role as the lead allocated worker to our Eligible, 16 and 17 year olds who remains subject to Cared For Status. The roles and responsibilities have also been reviewed by Team Managers within the Cared For Children’s Service management group.

**3. Legal definitions of Care Experienced People**

**Eligible –** you are an Eligible care experienced person if:

* You are aged 16 or 17, and
* You are currently a young person in care, and
* You have been in care for a period of 13 weeks (91 days) or periods accumulating 13 weeks since the age of 14 including a period since your 16th birthday.

**Relevant –** you are a Relevant care experienced person if:

* You are aged 16 or 17, and
* You are no longer cared for by the Local Authority but you have previously been an ‘Eligible’ care experienced person.

**Former Relevant** – you are a Former Relevant care experienced person if:

* You are aged between 18 and 25 and before reaching 18 you were or had been a Relevant care experienced person, or
* Immediately before you stopped being cared for you were an Eligible care experienced person.

**Qualifying** – you are a Qualifying care experienced person if:

* You are at least 16 but under 21, and
* You were a cared for child prior to the making of a Special Guardianship Order, which was in force when you reached 18, or
* If at any after you reached aged 16, you were no longer a child in care, or accommodated, or
* You were privately fostered and assessed to be in need.

Coram Voice provide a useful quiz that can help identify Care Experienced status that can be found here: [Am I a care leaver? - Coram Voice](https://coramvoice.org.uk/myrights/all-you-need-to-know-about-leaving-care/i-am-care-leaver/)

**Advice, Support and Guidance up to 25**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced the extension of duties to all Former Relevant care experienced people up to the age of 25. From the age of 21 all Former Relevant care experienced people will be offered continued allocation to a Personal Advisor who remains available to provide advice, support and guidance in seeking to address any unmet needs as identified within their Pathway Plan.

**4. Recommendations for the Role and Responsibilities of Personal Advisors in the Care Experienced People Team**:

Personal Advisors from the Care Experienced People Team will be allocated to Eligible care experienced people from 16 years of age. Personal Advisors will provide advice, support and guidance throughout the care experienced person’s journey into adulthood by supporting them in the following areas:

**Eligible Care Experienced People aged 16**

* Personal Advisors befriend and provide support, advice, and guidance.
* Provide direct support to develop independence skills in one to one and group sessions with frequency and duration to be approved by the Care Experienced People Team Manager.
* May attend statutory visits alongside the allocated Social Worker.

**Eligible Care Experienced People aged 17**

* Attend Statutory Reviews and Personal Education Planning meetings.
* Support Property Pool Plus applications (see Accommodation).
* Support early Universal Credit claims (See Joint Protocol with DWP).
* Present the young person’s case to the High Priority Resettlement Panel (see Accommodation).
* Provide support to obtain a provisional driving licence.

**Relevant aged 16 -17 and Former Relevant Care Experienced People aged 18-21**

* Personal Advisors coordinate the update of the Pathway Plan within every 6months or within 28 days following a significant event.
* Maintain Keeping In Touch within every 60days as a minimum.
* Support involvement with partner agencies: Health, DWP, EET support, Probation, Police etc.
* Will provide support with voter registration.

**Former Relevant Care Experienced People aged 21 – 25**

* Personal Advisor provide on-going support, advice and guidance based on needs led Pathway Planning.
* Maintain Keeping In Touch in line with needs led assessment.
* Signpost to partner agencies and 3rd sector services.

**Qualifying Care Experienced People aged 18 – 25**

* Personal Advisor will send a yearly letter detailing the support offer and guidance on how this can be accessed.
* Personal Advisors undertake one off needs assessment on request which may include time limited support advice and guidance.

**5. Next steps**

To seek agreement for the defined roles and responsibilities of the Personal Advisor at Heads of Service

To include the agreed roles and responsibilities within the updated published Local Offer to our Care Experienced People.

**Contributing Officers:-**

David Lamb, Interim Team Manager Care Experienced People Team