



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

19th March 2024

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRAINING

Author: Emma Brabon - Employment, Education & Training Team

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an update in respect of the Council's dedicated programmes to support care experienced young people into employment, education and training.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To inform Members of the various employment, education and training programmes available for care experienced young people in RCT.

4. PROGRAMMES

4.1 Step in The Right Direction

Step in The Right Direction programme is a two year paid traineeship for care experienced young people aged 16-25 living in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Trainees are given work opportunities within a variety of Council departments and are managed by the Traineeship Coordinator, supported by an allocated 16+ Worker and overseen day to day by a Placement Manager. These young people have all the support needed to gain the work experience and training required to help them gain full time employment at the end of the programme.

Breakdown of Outcomes April'23 – March'24

Trainees recruited – 9

Internal Placements:

- Social Care Day Services – Llwynypia Learning Curves
- Dare Valley Country Park
- Vision Products
- Social Care Day Services – Café 50
- ICT – Front Line Support
- Parks – Ynysangharad Park
- Social Care Services – Aberdare Learning Curve

External Placements:

- Childcare - Rachel's Playhouse, Aberdare

Trainees securing employment in RCT Council – **2**
(ICT Apprentice and YEPS Apprentice)

Trainees entering further education – **1**
(USW – BA (Hons) Youth and Community Work)

Trainees still currently on placement – **5**

Trainees left due to personal reasons – **1**

4.2 Care2Work

Providing children looked after and care experienced young people aged 15-25, with encouragement and support to identify and access a range of employment and training opportunities. Care2Work Coordinators support the young people through listening, advising, boosting confidence, offering reassurance and emphasising the positive aspects of a job or career. Access to relevant work experience placements are provided, along with employability courses and training. The ultimate aim of the Care2Work programme is to ensure care experienced young people, within Rhondda Cynon Taf, are provided with individual tailored support in order to access suitable training and development opportunities to maximise their potential.

Breakdown of Outcomes from April'23 – March'24:

Referrals – **101**
Secured Employment – **8**
Entered further education – **8**
Achieved a qualification – **18**
Completed a Care2Work Course – **21**
Work experience and volunteering – **9**
Currently still working with Care2Work – **16**
Did not engage – **21**

New Initiatives:

From September'23 Care2Work have linked with the Virtual School to offer all Year 10 and 11 pupils EET support. Visits arranged with DP's each academic term.

In April'24 Care2Work are working in partnership with Virtual School, USW and Cardiff Met Universities to deliver a Raising Aspirations Course for Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 pupils.

Care2Work Courses:

- Post 16 options
- Employability Skills
- Introduction to Construction
- Introduction to Hospitality
- Introduction to Sports Leadership and Coaching
- Introduction to Social Care
- Raising Aspirations
- Steps to Success
- Summer Employability Programme

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. There are no consultation implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

9.1 Supporting children who are looked after to achieve the best possible outcomes supports the Council's Corporate Priorities to build a strong economy and to promote independence and positive lives for everyone and ensures that the Sustainable Development principle and the Wellbeing Goals of the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act (Wales) underpin the vision and working practices of the service.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The report seeks to inform the Corporate Parenting board of the outcomes of both Step in the Right Direction and Care2Work CLA programmes from April'23 – to date.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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