

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 JULY 2019

**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Children’s Innovation Partnership

In December 2018 the Department entered into an Innovation Partnership with Barnardo’s to design and deliver cost effective outcome focused and creative service models for children across Leicestershire. The partnership is particularly focusing on young people on the edge of care, in local authority care and leaving care, including children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Early this year Barnardo’s was successful in its bid to the Department for Education for a grant to fund the local co-ordination of free holiday activities and healthy food for disadvantaged Leicestershire children. The grant will enable around 2500 children and young people to receive 4 weeks of free activities and healthy food over the summer holidays.

MISTLE (Multi-Agency Intervention Support Team Leicestershire)

I am also pleased to share with Members some positive outcomes from the MISTLE project run by Action for Children on behalf of the Department. Children placed in residential care are referred to MISTLE who then work directly with the carer, the child and parent to prepare them for moving back to a family based setting. The team is a multi-agency team, including CAMHS, Social Care and Action for Children, providing ‘wrap-around’ support to the child and their family. The project has now been in place for a year and I am pleased to share with the Council that three of the young people supported early on in the year have moved on, one back home and two into family based settings. Four more young people are now ready to move into family based settings once these have been identified. This is a significant achievement in improving the outcomes for these children and young people and demonstrates the positive impact of assertive, direct work with young people to support their move into family based settings.

Virtual School Children in Care and Care Leavers

The Virtual School monitors, tracks the progress in education of all children in the care of Leicestershire County Council and supports all stakeholders with advocacy, advice, challenge and training. Over the last year our children in care and care leavers have had a number of significant successes that we would like to share.

A 17 year old Leicestershire looked after child has been named “student of the year” for his Vehicle Technology course at Leicester College. This achievement is

particularly remarkable as the student had previously made little progress at school but since attending college has thrived. He has also taken another student who is struggling under his wing to enable that student also to achieve and progress.

Six Leicestershire looked after children attended a residential (Widening Participation) event at the University of Leicester attended by more than 100 pupils (not looked after) from schools across the region. One of our looked after pupils won an award for "Most Improved Student" on the Arts and Humanities programme, two of the girls (Year 9) are now thinking positively about going to university.

One of our first year university students has received her results for her end of year exams and achieved three Firsts and two 2:1s, giving her an overall 2:1 for the year.

Another student gained three merits in her college course which has enabled her to get into De Montfort University to follow a Fashion course.

Seven Leicestershire Care leavers have been appointed since June 2018 to apprenticeships with the County Council as a result of the ring-fenced apprenticeship scheme.

Mr I. D. Ould CC