



DERBY COLLEGE GROUP POLICY

GUIDELINE

Looked After Young People, Care Leavers and Young Carers Guidelines

Owning Policy:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Designated Owning Department:

Student Experience & Pastoral Support

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Looked After Young People, Care Leavers & Young Carers
Guidelines

Procedure Originator:

Director of Student Experience and Pastoral Support

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POLICY - PROCEDURES - GUIDELINES - RELATED DOCUMENTS

These guidelines complement the Group's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and identifies further responsibilities that the Group will undertake in relation to young people who are Looked After, Care Leavers and Young Carers.

Both the policy and guidelines take account of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, which brings all agencies into line with the duties placed on schools and colleges by section 175 of the Education Act 2002.

Definition

Who are Looked After Young People?

This guidance refers to young people who are Looked After as defined by the Children Act 1989. That is those students who are under the age of 18 and are:

- The subject of an Interim or Full-time Care or Emergency Protection Order.
- Unaccompanied minors who are Asylum Seekers.
- Accommodated by a local authority with the agreement of their parent(s) or legal guardian.
- Compulsorily accommodated as a result of criminal proceedings.

A large number of these young people coming into care will have a history of physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Some may have suffered the death of a parent or have a parent who are unable to look after them properly because of illness. Others have disabilities and many different needs, and a small number are in care because of criminal activity.

A large number of these young people may have low self-esteem, poor education standards due to absence from school, delayed social / emotional / cognitive development, have been bullied or have bullied others, mental health issues, few friends or feel isolated or have behaviour issues. This makes them an extremely vulnerable group in terms of realising their educational potential and future life chances.

How do young people become Looked After?

Children come into care by two main routes: Firstly, the parents have asked for this help or secondly the child is in danger of being harmed.

- Under section 20 of the Children's Act 1989 - where parents have asked for help, because for some reason their child can no longer stay at home, suitable accommodation for the child will be provided. Parental responsibility remains with the parent / guardian.
- Under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 - if the child is in danger of being harmed, a Care Order will be made by a court. The court will take all the circumstances into careful consideration before doing this. When a Care Order is made, Children Services acquire parental responsibility and become a legal parent alongside the parent / guardian.

Care Leavers

Between the ages of sixteen to eighteen a young person who has been Looked After will be expected to begin the transition towards independent living to become a Care Leaver.

They may remain with their Foster Carers or move into supported lodgings or into a bedsit or flat.

From the age of sixteen they will be supported by the Local Authority Leaving Care Team.

Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone who could not cope without their support. Most are caring for a parent, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member.

The person they look after will have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

When a young person looks after someone who has a serious illness, disability, a mental health issue, or substance misuse problem, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of college. DCG is committed to ensuring reasonable adjustments are made to a young carer's timetable and we offer support both academically and emotionally as and when required.

Designated Person

The Group has a senior designated person with responsibility for Looked after Young People, Care Leavers and Young Carers to monitor and promote the educational achievement of students who are looked after or leaving care – Director of Student Experience and Pastoral Support.

The Group has a designated person who works with the local authorities and completes Personal Education Plans (PEPs) – Student Experience and Pastoral Lead.

The Designated Person will:

- Identify all the Looked After Young People in College and those who have recently left care and young carers and who may, therefore, still need support
- Work closely with other agencies, sharing information as appropriate and adhere to joint protocols including attendance at local forums and meetings.
- Identify the young persons looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.
- Identify the students care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him / her.
- Liaise with other local agencies to ensure there are well supported plans for post-16 transition of young people in care, care leavers and young carers, including impartial IAG, identification of additional learning Support needs, informal Taster Days and Information Events etc.
- Work with internal agencies such as Welfare and Inclusion to ensure the wrap around support meets the diverse needs of each individual.
- Ensure that an up to date, complete and high-quality post-16 Personal Education Plan (PEP) is in place for all young people.

- Ensure appropriate interventions and assessments are carried out so barriers to learning are overcome and that these plans are recorded in the PEP.
- Oversee the monitoring and tracking of young people in care and care leavers including attendance, academic progress and progression and promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations for achievement.
- Allocate a Student Experience and Pastoral Coach who will lead on transition and have caseloads of Looked After Young People/Care Leavers and who are allocated to specific academies.
- Ensure that all staff have a clear understanding of confidentiality and issues that affect Looked After Young People, Care Leavers and Young Carers, co-ordinate information sharing and take responsibility for the confidentiality and security of information.