

Appendix 1

	Recommendation	What do we do in Gateshead?	What do we need to do?
1	Allocate children in care to a PA as close to age 16 as possible, in line with statutory guidance.	We are reviewing these arrangements constantly and Team Managers meet every month to identify young people turning 16 and make sure that a joint supervision takes place to agree actions for the Social Worker (SW) and the Personal Advisor (PA) with the young person.	Continue with the current system and review this regularly through feedback from Young People, Foster carers, PA's and SW's.
2	Involve children in care and care leavers in developing their plans for after care. Plans should take account of young people's wishes and concerns, when possible, including those related to feeling safe, where young people want to live, and what they want to do with their future.	We do involve young people in the writing of their Plan, but the document needs to be more young person centred and less about meeting the needs of professionals.	We will work with the young ambassadors to review the wording of the pathway plan.
3	Plans should pay sufficient attention to social, emotional and mental health needs. They should be developed early but at the young person's pace and in	These areas are always covered in	When plans are reviewed, we will

	an incremental way.	each pathway plan.	need to ensure that progress and actions taken to address any difficulties a young person might be having are included in the review document and plan.
4	Young people should be prepared for:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> managing finances and budgeting, including understanding what bills they have to pay, what benefits they are entitled to, how to budget, and how the money they get will change at different ages	<p>We do this to an extent. There was confidence that we let young people know what their entitlements are. PA's routinely provide preparation for young people managing on benefits / paying household bills etc.</p>	<p>An area for improvement would be More financial advice regarding credit card / finance etc. One issue raised was how difficult it for young people to improve their credit score and how we support them with this responsibly.</p> <p>PA's will consider incorporating issues around credit scoring for young people who are working or in Higher Education.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> handling safety and risk, including about the area and accommodation they live in, what risks they may face, ensuring they know who they can	<p>These discussions are part of the preparation for adult</p>	<p>One gap that was identified was that PA's need to discuss</p>

	call for help, and what they can do in an emergency	life work that PA's carry out with young people.	Fire Safety Risks/Plans and we could ask the T&W Fire brigade if we could make a referral when someone moves into their new home.
	<input type="checkbox"/> accessing health services, including helping them to register with GPs, dentists and opticians, and ensuring that they know what services are available if they move area	We do this really well, and all young people have a health passport.	Non
	<input type="checkbox"/> supporting mental health and emotional well-being, including knowing who they can call if they need help or someone to talk to (any known mental health problems should be incorporated into the plan so that these are considered across all aspects of planning). If care leavers have long-term physical or mental health conditions, corporate parents should help them to navigate the transition to adults' services.	Yes, we offer this support to young people. For young people with Learning disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and complex mental health difficulties we have the health transitions group that meets every quarter and considers young people ages 17 and over.	A further development area is for the PA being more involved in following up Health services for young people, the complicating factor for this is sometimes obtaining young people's consent but PA's need to be tenacious and continue to offer support to young people with this. It was agreed that although PA's are allocated at 16 the PA being more involved

			prior to 18 to maintain the links and build relationships with health professionals as young people change services would be helpful.
5	Publish and publicise the local authority's care leaver offer in accessible ways, in line with statutory guidance. Ensure that care leavers know what they are legally entitled to and are helped to access support after they leave care. Review the care leaver offer in partnership with care leavers.	Yes, we do this through the care leaver's app which contains all of this information. It's also available on line here Gateshead's Local Offer for care leavers - Gateshead Council	PA's need to make sure that they support young people to add the app to their phone/smart device so that they can access thios at all times. This does not require the young person to have available data to use.
6	Ensure that all children in care and care leavers know how to make a complaint and have access to advocacy services.	Yes we do this as part of the care leaver's introductory visit with the young person and then again when they take over as the young person's key worker	Non.