 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Committee</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
	<b>Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services</b>
<b>Feedback from Care Leavers: Outcome of the Bright Spots 'Your life beyond care' survey 2019</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	N/A
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Brian Grady Operational Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships & Strategy  Sonya Kalyniak Head of Service, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council's Corporate Parenting Committee about the Bright Spots "Your life beyond care" survey 2019 and how the Council plans to respond.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee is requested to review and comment on the contents of this report and our planned response.

*It differs for different parts of life. But the way we are treated has improved although I think more should still be done for us.*

### 3.0 Background to “Your life beyond care” survey 2019

- 3.1 “Your life beyond care” is a well-being survey for care leavers. It builds on a similar survey for children in care. The survey was developed with care leavers by Coram Voice and The University of Oxford. This is the first year the survey has been available for care leavers.
- 3.2 The aim of the survey is to hear from care leavers about their well-being, improve their care leaving experience and highlight the Bright Spots of practice that contribute to care leavers doing well. Brent has been working in partnership with Coram Voice to ensure care leavers are involved and benefit from this survey.
- 3.3 The areas of focus in the survey were:
- The people in your life
  - Being a care leaver
  - Housing
  - Living independently
  - Taking part in society
  - Feelings
  - Well-being

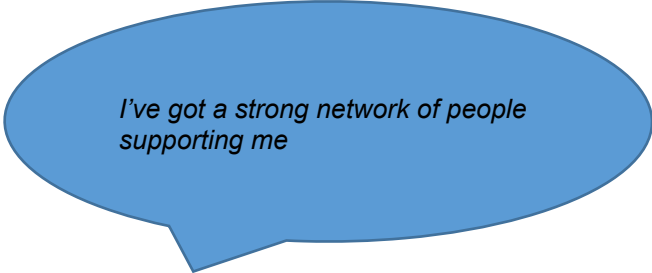
### 4.0 Summary of key messages from the “Your life beyond care” survey 2019

- 4.1 The survey completed via an online app with the support of the Leaving Care Teams. The survey took place between February and May 2019 and results were made available to Brent Council in September 2019. The eligible participation cohort of care leavers aged 16 to 25 years old was 436. Of that number, 103 care leavers responded to the survey which is a response rate of 30%.
- 4.2 Half (49%) of the respondents were aged between 18 and 20 years, most others (31%) were aged between 21 and 25 years. 65% of respondents were male and 35% were female. Before becoming a care leaver, over half (56%) of the young people who responded had been in care for more than four years and 12% had been in care for less than a year. Direct feedback from Care Leavers is included in quotations in this report

*She [personal advisor] is absolutely amazing, she also always finds the time to help me when I need help. I couldn't be more grateful and I thank her for everything thing she has done for me.*

- 4.3 What care leavers said has gone well:
- Care leavers reported very positive experiences with their leaving care workers. 93% could get in touch with their leaving care workers ‘some’, ‘most’ or ‘all’ of the time and 95% trusted their leaving care worker.
  - In Brent, care leavers experienced greater stability of worker than did young people (11-18yrs) in care.

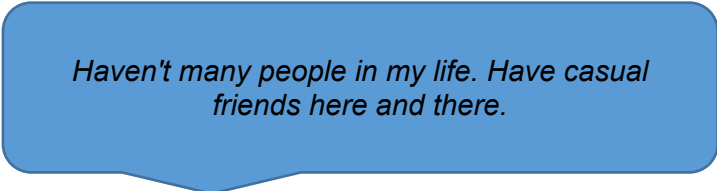
- Most care leavers reported a network of significant relationships. 92% had someone who listened, 91% had someone who praised them, 91% had someone who believed in them and 85% had someone they trusted.
- Care leavers in Brent were statistically more likely than care leavers in other LAs to have goals and plans for their future (97% vs. 86%). This is a Bright Spot of practice.
- Compared to the general population (ONS, 2018), care leavers in Brent were almost as likely to be living in households with Internet access (90% vs. 88%).



*I've got a strong network of people supporting me*

#### 4.4 What care leavers said needs to improve:

- 31 (31%) of Brent's care leavers were identified as having low well-being (low scores on two or more of the well-being scales). Understanding the specific factors associated with low overall well-being amongst care leavers can help to identify young people who may need more intensive support. Factors with the strongest effect on low overall well-being included: high levels of anxiety, disliking one's appearance and/or not having a good friend.
- One fifth (19%) of care leavers wanted to know more about their care experience or felt that nobody had explained to them why they had been in care.
- Compared to peers in the general population, care leavers in Brent scored less favourably across a range of well-being measures, including happiness, life satisfaction and feeling that the things they did in life were worthwhile.
- A third (34%) of the care leavers did not 'always' feel safe in their home. 30% did not 'always' feel safe in their neighbourhood.
- A quarter (26%) of the young people were struggling financially. The same is true for 7% of 16-24 year olds in the general population. Compared to care leavers in other LAs, care leavers in Brent more often reported being unable to afford their mobile phone bills (38% vs 24%).



*Haven't many people in my life. Have casual friends here and there.*

*I had very bad mental health problems last year, which landed myself into arrears with my rent and housing benefit. I was hoping that maybe I could get some financial help from the council, but no luck.*

## 5. Brent's planned response the 'Your life beyond care' survey 2019

5.1 The detailed report from Coram Voice and The University of Oxford provides very rich material to help us to continue to improve services for care leavers based on their lived experiences. Planned activity based on the findings of the survey include:

- **Care Leavers in Action (CLIA):** The initial results were shared with CLIA on 15 October 2019. Members fed back that they are repeatedly asked for their views but do not feel these lead to action. They want to feel empowered to make changes to services. Officers will work with CLIA to identify specific projects based on the results of the 'Your life beyond care' survey 2019.
- **Local Partnership Meeting with Looked After Children and Care Leavers:** The results will be presented to the local partnership meeting in collaboration with CLIA to develop specific actions for service improvement based on the findings of this survey. Given the low wellbeing scores identified by the survey, the meeting will have representatives from the Central North West London NHS Trust, the CAMHS provider and the Adults Mental Health provider present. Actions identified will be owned by the partnership group. Areas of good practice will be highlighted to ensure we continue to focus on what care leavers say works well.
- **Corporate Parenting Committee:** A further report will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee in spring 2020 to demonstrate the impact of the survey.
- **Feedback to care leavers:** As with the Bright Spots survey for children in care, Brent care leavers will be written to and thanked for their engagement and feedback. This will include key messages about service improvement based on the findings of the survey.

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