

## Grading Criteria – Leaving Care Audits

<b>1: CASE RECORDING</b>				
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
Case recording - suitability	There is a clear focus of the work which is routinely and consistently evidenced on file. Case recording is exceptionally thorough and balanced, showing exceeding professionalism.	The care leaver’s basic information is up to date.	Case records do not consistently reflect the work undertaken and do not allow to get a clear and holistic picture of the care leaver’s journey, including their family history and family and professional support network.	There are significant gaps in the case recording that do not to consider the care leaver’s history and support network. Case records on file do not evidence the work undertaken with the care leaver.
		Comprehensive and up to date records are held and shared between agencies where appropriate and necessary to help, support and protect care leavers		
		Case records reflect the work that is undertaken and clearly relate to the plans for the future.		
		Case recording is well argued, focused, jargon free and appropriate for the relevant audience; it will support the care leaver in any future access to records to help their understanding of their journey, the intervention and support put in place		
Consideration of case history		The style and clarity of records enhances the understanding that care leavers have about their histories and experiences. This also includes the effective use of chronologies that reflect significant events in the young adult’s life. It supports the analysis of the family’s history and identification of potential patterns.		
		The quality of case recording reflect the practitioner’s good understanding of the care leaver’s history and how it has been impacting on them		
Family and support network		The care leaver’s relationships and support have been explored; this includes the effective use of genograms and ecomaps		

Education, Training, Employment, NEET		Care leavers have access to appropriate education and employment opportunities, including work experience and apprenticeships, where possible		
		They are encouraged and supported to continue their education and training, including those aged 21 to 24.		

<b>2: Involvement of Young People</b>				
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
Staying in touch and relationships	Contact with care leavers is as agreed and more often where identified as necessary; attempts to stay in touch show consistency and creative persistence. The care leaver is fully informed about their rights and entitlements and knows about the support available to make a complaint.	Care leavers have a positive and stable relationships with carers/ key workers and staff from the local authority	Care leavers are not consistently involved in the work and support offered to them; contact is irregular/ infrequent and attempts to stay in touch require more consistency and flexibility. Rights and entitlements are shared with the care leaver when they ask for it.	There are significant gaps in involving care leavers and staying in touch with them/ making attempts to stay in touch with them. Their voice is not reflected.
		The Leaving Care Coach stays in touch with the care leaver as agreed with them in their Pathway Plan, this includes frequency and the type of contact		
		Care leavers are seen as agreed with them in their Pathway Plan; where possible, they are seen alone by their allocated Leaving Care Coach; they understand what support is available to them.		
		Leaving Care Coaches make significant efforts to stay in touch, including young people in custody.		
Voice of the care leaver	Their view is consistently sought and evidenced.	The care leaver is given the opportunity to and contributes to their Pathway Plan; their views are clearly reflected generally and within the Pathway Plan.		
Rights and Entitlements		Care leavers are provided with information (including through the care leaver's pledge) about their legal entitlements such as access to their records, assistance to find employment (including work experience), training, financial support and who to complain, where necessary supported by an advocate.		

**3: Risk Management**

Criteria	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Supporting and enabling	Risks are identified timely and are carefully assessed to ensure that the care leaver stays safe and feels safe. Risk Management plans are reviewed timely and regularly, involving the young person and relevant professionals	Care leavers are helped to understand by their Leaving Care Coach and other relevant professionals involved how their life choices affect their safety and wellbeing	The work evidenced on the file does not consistently identify and holistically assess the risks and potential risks jointly with the young person and multi-agency network where relevant. This in turn impacts on the effectiveness of a risk management plan.	Risk is not identified or not assessed; therefore the risk management plan (if in place) is largely ineffective.
Risk identification and assessment		Care leavers are supported to take responsibility for their behaviour		
Risk management		Any risks associated with offending, drug or alcohol misuse, going missing or with sexual exploitation are known by adults who have responsibility for them; this includes Leaving Care Coaches, key workers, carers, etc.		
Homelessness		Effective plans, informed by the multi-agency network where relevant, are in place to reduce the risk of or actual harm to them		
		Risks of tenancy breakdown are identified and addressed, alternative plans are put in place promptly where necessary		

**4: SUPERVISION/MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT**

Criteria	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Supervision	Management oversight is robust and decisions are regularly, routinely and consistently scrutinised by managers in supervision sessions that also facilitate reflective discussions.	Decision-making is undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced practitioners/ managers, with decisions, all actions (with timescales) and engagement with the care leaver and other professionals (where relevant) recorded	The work evidenced on file does not consistently reflect the decisions taken, including the rationale for them, in a timely way; there is	There are significant gaps in the evidence of supervision including case discussion, review of actions and their progress as well as
Frequency		Supervision takes place at the minimum required timescales (every 3 months), and more often if the complexity of the case work requires this.		

Triangulation		Supervision offers a forum to link the recommendations of the plan in place, progress on previously agreed actions and recent developments within the care leaver's life.	inconsistency in linking supervision with plans in place and their progress.	planning and agreeing on a way forward. The level of management oversight is not sufficient in response to significant events/ concerns.
Reflection and critical discussion		Supervision offers the opportunity to discuss, debate, reflect and test hypotheses in relation to what is happening with the care leaver		
Audit findings		If an audit was completed within the past 6 months, the manager and practitioner engage in a discussion on the findings and agree on the required actions to progress the case work.		
Manager's/ Senior Manager's "footprint"		Managers and Senior Managers regularly review, where relevant, the plans and help in place that have been agreed with the aim to reduce the risk of harm or actual harm		
Escalation		Authoritative action is taken where change is not secured and the risk to the care leaver intensifies or remains		
Response to allegations and poor practice by professionals		Allegations of abuse, mistreatment or poor practice by professionals and carers are taken seriously; steps are taken to protect care leavers and the management of allegations is robust and effective.		
Complaints		Complaints are treated seriously and result in a clear response, urgent action and improve services where that is required.		

<b>5: ASSESSMENT</b>				
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
Holistic assessments	<p>The assessment of the care leaver's needs is exceeding and holistic.</p> <p>Risk is carefully assessed to ensure that the young person stays safe and feels safe.</p> <p>Assessments are regularly, routinely and consistently reviewed and updated to reflect changes in circumstances and actions taken to address individual needs.</p>	<p>Assessments address all domains of the needs assessment within the Pathway Plan; they also identify the risks and protective factors; they consider the historical context/ significant events and result in a direct offer and plan to address these needs and risks; they consider contingency plans appropriately.</p>	<p>The work evidenced on the file does not consistently, fully and holistically assess the young person's needs, risks and protective factors.</p> <p>This has some impact on the effectiveness of a risk management plan. The assessment does not explicitly make reference to relevant research and legislation and lacks professional curiosity and analysis.</p>	<p>The assessment does not recognise and consider significant areas of the care leaver's needs and protective factors.</p> <p>Risk is not identified or not assessed; therefore the risk management plan (if in place) is largely ineffective.</p> <p>The assessment is not timely and/ or out of date and does not reflect the young person's current circumstances.</p>
Information sharing between agencies		<p>Health needs are clearly assessed, prioritised and met</p>		
Professional curiosity		<p>Appropriate consideration is given to the need of a Mental Capacity Assessment (MCA) and/ or Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs).</p>		
Evidence base		<p>Education, training and employment needs of care leavers are carefully assessed as well as specialist support, where needed; this helps care leavers to make good progress in their learning and development, wherever they live.</p>		
		<p>Information sharing between agencies and professionals is timely, specific and effective and takes full account of the requirements set out in legislation and guidance about the need to obtain the young person's consent except where in seeking that consent the young person is likely to suffer significant harm or further harm.</p>		
		<p>Professional curiosity by the practitioner is evident whilst a position of partnership working with the young person is maintained.</p>		
		<p>Legislation, policy and evidence based practice is applied appropriately to inform the assessment and plan.</p>		

Direct work		Assessments result in direct work with young people and develop in response to that direct work.		
Ongoing assessments		Assessment and plans are dynamic and change in the light of emerging issues and risks.		
Authorization by managers		Senior managers have responsibility for authorising the recommended next steps.		

<b>6: Impact analysis: Planning and Review</b>				
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
Corporate Parenting	The response to care leaves is consistently good or better and results in sustained improvements to the lives of care leavers.	The local authority acts as a reasonable parent in supporting the young person's transition into adulthood, providing practical, emotional and financial support until they are at least 21 years old and, where necessary, until they are 25.	Good help and care is not consistently delivered for children in care.	There are widespread or serious gaps, including unnecessary delay in implementing plans which result in the care leaver's welfare not being safeguarded and promoted
Pathway Planning		Pathway Planning including transition planning for looked after children with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities) is timely and effective and addresses all young people's needs; they are aspirational		
		Reviews of Pathway Plans are robust and involve all key people, including the young person who understands the their pathway plan and contribute to its development		
		Plans are updated as circumstances change		
		Where a care leaver might be experiencing challenges that impact on the ability to understand their Pathway Plan, i.e. due to learning disability, mental health issues, etc. this is recognised and appropriate support is arranged for the care leaver to understand their plan.		

Sharing of Pathway Plan		The care leaver is given a copy of their most recent Needs Assessment and Pathway Plan; their feedback on is actively sought and recorded.		
Moving into independence		Care leavers develop skills and confidence they need to maximise their chances of successful maturity to adulthood, and parenthood (incl, budgeting and independent living skills, safe relationships & behaviour)		
		They succeed in their transition to greater independence and adulthood at a time that is right for them		
		They can remain in placements beyond their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday or, where more appropriate, live in permanent and affordable accommodation that meets their needs and those of their children, where relevant		
		They are helped to find housing solutions that best meet their needs; risks of tenancy breakdown are identified and alternative plans are in place		
		Accommodation for them is appropriate for each young person to safely develop their independent living skills		
		Care leavers develop supportive relationships within the community, including contact with family and friends, where appropriate.		
Care leaver's confidence and integration into society		They are positive about themselves; their achievements are celebrated and the local authority shows they are positive and proud of their care leavers		
		They are and feel safe, particularly where they are living.		
		Mental health services, adult mental health provision, therapeutic help and services for learning or physically disabled young people and adults are available when needed		
Health				

		<p>Care leavers have access to and understand their full health history and are provided with all key documents they need to begin their lives as young adults, i.e. NI numbers, birth certificate, passport, etc.</p>		
<p>Education</p>		<p>Care leavers are progressing well and achieving their full potential through life choices, either in their attainment in further/ higher education or in their chosen career.</p>		