



**COLEG  
CAMBRIA**

## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS POLICY

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| Policy Name:                               | Looked After Children and Care Leavers Policy |
| Date Equality Impact Assessment completed: | November 2019                                 |
| Presented for Approval:                    | November 2019                                 |
| Approved by:                               | Safeguarding Group                            |
| Date approved:                             | November 2019                                 |
| Review Date:                               | November 2022                                 |
| Author:                                    | Head of Student Services                      |

## **Introduction / Policy Statement**

Coleg Cambria is committed to providing a quality education for all its learners. The commitment to 'Looked After Children' (LAC) and 'Leaving Care' Children is guided by prevailing legislation and current guidance from the Department for Education.

## **Purpose**

To provide support and guidance for staff in how to support looked after children and care leavers working in conjunction with Local Education Authorities, LAC and Leaving Care Teams.

## **Risk**

Failure to support looked after children – ensuring we mitigate against early leavers.

## **Definitions**

LAC refers to young people who may be:

### 1. Accommodated

A voluntary arrangement is established because the parent(s) is missing or unable to cope due to illness. The arrangement can also form part of a child protection plan negotiated with the family. In these circumstances, the parent(s) retain parental responsibility.

### 2. In Care

A young person is in care only if a court has granted a Care Order. An order may be issued if the young person is believed to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. A care order generally gives parental responsibility to the local authority but it can also be shared with the parents.

### 3. Remanded/detained

A young person can be remanded or detained:

- if an emergency protection order has been issued;
- if s/he has been removed from the home by police using their powers of protection;
- by a court following criminal charges;
- by a court directing a Children's Services Department to accommodate a child already subject to a supervision order for criminal behaviour. The period of the action can be up to six months.

Leaving Care refers to young people who are leaving the care system and are supported via supported lodgings or independent living.

LAC or Leaving Care young people may have one or more of the following challenges:

- low self esteem
- poor education standards due to absence from college
- at risk of poor attendance and leaving course early
- delayed social/emotional/ cognitive development
- been bullied or has bullied others
- mental health issues
- few friends or feel isolated
- behaviour issues
- poor attachment to others

This makes them an extremely vulnerable group in terms of realising their educational potential and future life chances.

## **Policy**

Where a learner has been identified as a Looked After Child (LAC) or Leaving Care (LC) young person the Safeguarding Team will work with the relevant Deputy Director to ensure:

- The allocation of a Student Services Advisor or other appropriate staff member as Mentor to monitor progress weekly and offer support at critical times. It may be appropriate to involve the Pastoral Coach/Personal Tutor within the area that the young person is studying. If intervention is not required the Advisor will meet with the young person regularly to ensure a positive outcome is achieved.
- The development of a robust Personal Education Plan (PEP) in partnership with the LA who has responsibility for the young person.
- That information about the LAC or LC is only shared with staff on a 'need to know' basis and that all such staff have an appropriate understanding of the issues affecting the LAC or LC and the need for confidentiality.

## **Responsibilities**

The Safeguarding Officer will ensure that a member of the team will:

- be an advocate for the LAC or LC;
- ensure a smooth induction for the LAC or LC and carer(s), and note specific requirements, including care status;
- ensure that a PEP is completed within 20 days of a child entering care or enrolling at the College working in line with the LA who has responsibility for the young person.
- ensure that the PEP and other records are kept up to date;
- co-ordinate support for the child in the College and liaise with other professionals and carers;
- ensure staff receive relevant information and training
- provide written information to assist planning or review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- ensure that the young person and carer(s) receive early notification of relevant college meetings, e.g. parents' evenings;
- ensure that the LAC or LC is informed about and encouraged to attend extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning;
- ensure appropriate transfer of information between individuals, relevant agencies and to other colleges.
- seek meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties, particularly if there is the danger of exclusion;

- set up a 'team' to ensure that the young person has a positive experience leading to qualification, achievement and progression. This 'team' will include Additional Support Co-ordinator, Pastoral Coach/Personal Tutor and any external agency linked with the young person.
- Ensure if the LAC or LC is "At Risk" of leaving the course early due to poor attendance or behaviour, that they will be supported by a Student Services Advisor at meetings with the tutor or Deputy/~~Assistant~~ Director to discuss issues.
- ensure that documents pertaining to LAC or LC are completed and returned promptly to the supervising Authority
- provide reports annually to the College Safeguarding Group.
- review the effective implementation of this policy annually, or immediately in the light of new guidance and/or legislation being introduced.

### **Communication & Bilingualism**

This Policy will be provided in both Welsh and English.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

To be completed following consultation with internal and external stakeholders.

### **Consultation Process**

Local Safeguarding Children's Board  
National Strategic Group (Welsh Government)

### **Lifespan of Document**

The Policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

### **Implementation Plan**

The Designated member of Staff will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.

### **Key Performance Indicators & Standards**

Section 95 Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

### **References**

Section 95 Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.  
DofE Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children 2018.