

## Have you heard about Nottinghamshire's Local Offer for care leavers?

### What is it?

Section 2 of the Children and Social Care Act 2017 requires each local authority to publish a Local Offer for care leavers aged 18-25. The Local Offer must provide support for transition to adulthood in relation to health and wellbeing, positive relationships, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society.

Nottinghamshire County Council and the seven Districts have agreed to a single Care Leaver Offer for Nottinghamshire. This offer was launched in March 2019 and a commitment has been made to provide real opportunities that go beyond any statutory minimum requirements of the 2017 Act.

To find out more, please visit the Notts Help Yourself website at: <https://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/landing.page?newdirectorychannel=12>

### Local Offer- Training and Jobs- how are we supporting our looked after children and care leavers?

It is widely acknowledged that regular, positive interactions with the world of work can have a huge impact on young people's futures in terms of increasing the likelihood of them progressing into further education, employment or training, whilst also raising their earning potential.

As such we have developed a Work Experience Readiness and Knowledge (WERK) programme. This will be a 2/3-day programme which all our 16/17-year-old looked after children will be able to access. It will have a range of pre-employability and Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance activities (CEIAG) to help ensure that the young people are ready for and able to get the most out of their work experience placement. Work experience will also be arranged with businesses to occur within 8 weeks of the young person attending the WERK.

The pilot of the WERK programme has had a positive start. A small group of 16/17-year-old looked after children from Vision West Notts College completed the 2-day 'Care to Work' programme in which they explored and recognised transferable skills, discussed expectations and challenges in the workplace and shared personal goals. We are now organising relevant work experience placements for this first cohort where they can put their training into practice.

'Notts Next Steps', Nottinghamshire's app for care leavers is entering into the testing phase and will be available to download from March 2020. Designed in consultation with care leavers, this app will be another way to keep Nottinghamshire care leavers up to date with all the important information, advice and guidance around Nottinghamshire's Local Offer and what services, support and offers are available to them. Roll out will begin with Nottinghamshire County Council's Leaving Care teams who will in turn ensure our young people are made aware of and are able to access the app.

If you are caring for a 16/17-year-old and would like to register interest to find out more about the WERK programme or if you require any further information around the wider Local Offer, please talk to the young person's allocated Personal Adviser or social worker. We will be sure to continue to keep you updated with any future developments relating to Nottinghamshire's Local Offer for care leavers.