

# A GUIDE FOR POST 18 REVIEWS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

This leaflet will explain what the post 18 review service is, what it does and who can access it and what the benefits for young people

## THE POST 18 SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

### WHAT IS IT?

The IRO team have developed this service in recognition that some young people will have additional vulnerabilities and support needs, where continued support from the IRO Service would benefit them through this transition period.

It is important that the young person consents to this service and the continued involvement of the IRO.

The IRO who the young person already has a relationship with and may have known for several years would be the IRO who would continue to work with the young person and have oversight of their Pathway Plan.

## THE ADDITIONAL VULNERABILITIES WE HAVE IDENTIFIED FOR BEING SUPPORTED UNDER THIS SERVICE ARE.

- A young person may have significant emotional wellbeing/mental health worries
- A young person is open to youth Justice and are transferring to probation services
- There may be worries about the placement a young person is living in or they may be at risk of being homeless
- A young person has been assessed as being at risk of exploitation
- A young person who is leaving a secure or hospital setting
- A young person who frequently goes missing from home or placement
- A young person who is moving permanently outside of the area
- A young person is pregnant



## WHAT DOES THE SERVICE OFFER AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

In the 12 weeks before a young person reaches 18 the IRO will undertake a 'needs assessment' with the young person, Social Worker, Personal Advisor, and wider network to consider if the young person has any or a combination of the vulnerabilities listed above.

If the needs assessment recommends ongoing support through the post 18 review service for the young person, the IRO will make direct contact with them to seek their views and consent to having continued support from an IRO after becoming 18.

As a young person they are no longer legally looked after when they are 18, so can refuse this service and decide not to have ongoing support from the IRO and this will be respected – however if the IRO and network recommends the on-going support and the oversight of a post-18 review, the benefits will be discussed with the young person, to ensure they are able to make a fully informed decision.

If a young person agrees to ongoing support via this service, the IRO will chair or support them to chair a meeting known as a Post 18 Review within 3 months of their 18th Birthday.

The review will consider all the areas in the most recent completed Pathway Plan and the right actions are being taken and the right support is in place; the meeting will include the Young Person and key members of their network and will make actions on progress and next steps and how best to support the young person.

The discussion will be recorded on a post 18 review record which the young person and meeting participants will have a copy sent to them within 20 working days.

The review cycle will be unique for each young person depending on needs, some young people may only have 1 meeting others may have more.

If the IRO has concerns about practice or progress of the plan they can formally escalate concerns to the team manager, and these will be recorded and tracked.

Should you have any queries or questions please contact the independent reviewing officer

