

**People Services Portfolio  
Children and Families Services**

**Assistant Director:** Lindsey Knight  
Level 3, Moorfoot  
Sheffield  
S1 4PL



Tel: 07766364340  
Email: [lindsey.knight@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:lindsey.knight@sheffield.gov.uk)  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk)

04/12/2025

Dear Rachel,

**Re: Peer Review of Leaving Care Services in Hull City Council.**

Thank you for your engagement and openness during the Peer Review of Hull's Leaving Care Service, held on 20–21 November 2025. The review team greatly appreciated the opportunity to work alongside you, observe practice, and reflect on the strengths and opportunities to develop practice within your service. The two-day review provided a great opportunity to learn and reflect together, and the team all recognised the embedded learning culture present at Hull.

Throughout the planning stage, the team jointly developed the scope of the Peer Review with officers at Hull and agreed that dip sampling, alongside practitioners, would focus on the quality and impact of Supervision and Pathway Plans, including a focus on young people who were previously UASC.

**Summary of Activity**

**Throughout the two-day review, the team:**

- Reviewed the Evidence Folder submitted in advance of the visit, which included key documents, draft SEF, CHAT, Audits, Local Offer, Community Parenting Strategy, reverse scrutiny mins, minutes from CP board.
- Spoke with 11 PA's from leaving care and RAST, reviewed LCS documents as part of the dip sampling. Overall, we reviewed 25 cases, focusing on Pathway Plans, case recordings including multi-agency support and direct work, alongside supervision records.
- Led 4 focus groups, looking at the Quality Assurance Framework and Audits, Performance, Local Offer and Care leavers previously UASC.
- Dip sampled cases to support triangulation following case discussions.

### **Headline Findings:**

- The strength and commitment of the corporate parenting offer really stands out and is something to truly celebrate. This was evidenced in the local offer for care leavers. There is innovate and creative thinking around service design, which aligns strongly with the council's strategic intent for their care experienced young people.
- The team saw lots of evidence of professionals coming together to see how your care leavers can get the best possible service, this involved joined up work with TYS, advocacy around EET arrangements and mental health pathways. This multi-agency approach evidenced strong partnerships with stakeholders and a shared passion to create positive outcomes for some of the most vulnerable young people in society.
- The Personal Advisors offer stability and relational practice and, dedication to being trauma informed in their approach enables them to meaningfully advocate for their young people. When things need escalating, we were able to see some tenacious practice.
- The review team held a useful focus group looking specifically at performance, where it was evident leaders have a good understanding of their service. Alongside this strength within the focus group, there was some evidence of some possible under reporting in some areas, such as Staying Put and 'not known' accommodation for 17 and 18 year olds. A recommendation from the review team was for Hull to review this area and this was mentioned at the evaluation meeting at the end of day two
- There are some excellent joint approaches taken to understand young people's needs, particularly through the CENS formulation meetings. The review team felt the CENS formulation meetings were a great opportunity to capture key discussions to further support young people and so suggested recording them as joint/group supervisions on young people's records. This suggestion was also captured within the evaluation meeting at the end of day two.

### **Key Strengths:**

- During the review the team observed aspirational leaders who are passionate, creative, showing a good understanding of their service area. It was evident in discussions and documentation that the leadership team continue to strive for an outstanding service, and were able to articulate future planning, including widening the lens on accountability regarding stakeholders, corporate offer and evidencing impact.

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- The review identified an innovative and inspiring approach to care leavers options around accommodation and support. A particular strength noted within the RAST service offer and the partnership work with TYS.
- Young people's voices are being heard and are making a tangible impact on service design, with reverse scrutiny and children's 'voice and influence' approaches evident. There are some excellent foundations in place around co-production and lots of opportunity to strengthen this further.
- The framework for performance management is strong, with accessible data supporting improvements in visit timeliness and pathway plan completed. Leaders are using their dashboard to support a positive performance culture where staff can proactively plan their case priorities.
- The ETE (Education, Training, Employment) offer is well-developed, and the introduction of roles such as Social Prescriber and Care Experienced Champions is broadening support. The team saw some evidence of strong advocacy from Personal Advisors, ensuring their young people had access to ETE.

### Opportunities:

- There is a clear quality assurance framework in place, and some further progressions could be considered to strengthen the service audits. The review team found that there was an opportunity to involve partner agencies in the audit process. The introduction of multi-agency audits could strengthen the evidence around the impact of these partnerships, whilst also providing a learning space to review the offer.
- When young people transfer into the Leaving Care Service, there were some gaps around management oversight, joint handover and quality of Pathway Plans. The review team reflected that this could strengthened transitions for the young people.
- The case sampling sessions with Personal Advisors, involved rich discussions about the tenacious approach they were taking to keep young people engaged. The review team heard some great examples, but these were not always detailed in case recordings.
- Compliance across the service is good, with varied evidence of quality. The review team reflected through case sampling and discussions that Pathway Plans and Supervisions were not consistently SMART. The 'live' Pathway Plans are updated but it wasn't always clear how managers had oversight of any updates during the 6-month period. The LCS form for Pathway Plans is not always helpful for Personal Advisors and we suggested a task and finish group to review this.

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## Conclusion

Hull's Leaving Care Service demonstrates strong leadership, innovation, and a commitment to improving outcomes for care leavers. The review team was impressed by the dedication of staff and the positive direction of travel. The recommendations above are intended to support your ongoing journey of improvement.

Thank you again for your hospitality and for sharing your practice so openly. As a team, we reflected on the learning culture within Hull, and this made the review a huge pleasure. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any aspect of this feedback further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Knight', written in a cursive style.

Lindsey Knight  
On behalf of the Peer Review Team