

The attached working protocol between Children, Families and Social Care and Manchester Leaving Care Service forms part of the formal contract between Children, Families and Social Care and Barnardo's and is formally agreed by both parties.

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1. THE LEGAL CONTEXT

The 1989 Children Act

Understanding the challenges faced by care leavers and the need to respond to this very specific and vulnerable group of young people in a much more focused way was legally recognised for the first time in the 1989 Children Act, which became operational in England and Wales from October 1991. Section 24 of that Act placed a duty on Local Authorities to prepare young people in 'care' for the time when they came to leave 'care' and a duty to advise and befriend, until the age of 21, young people who were in 'care' beyond their 16th birthdays. Power to assist such young people financially and educationally were also included. In so doing, it was expected that Social Services Departments, though given the lead role, would combine together with many other Agencies in both the statutory and voluntary sectors to co-ordinate assistance across a range of issues such as housing, finance, health, education/employment and social support pertinent to this group of young people.

The 2000 Children (Leaving Care) Act

Still dissatisfied with progress throughout the UK on developing comprehensive services for care leavers, the Government passed a new law called the Children (Leaving Care) Act which came into force on 1.10.01. In so doing S24 of the Children Act was not repealed, but built upon and strengthened, with various new duties and powers being conferred upon Local Authorities. In summary, the main provisions of this Act are:-

- Imposing a new **duty** on Local Authorities to assess and meet the needs of the majority of 16/17 year olds ('eligible' and 'relevant' young people) in and leaving care. This includes an expectation that far less 16/17 year olds should leave care at all at that age, or if they do so it should be to properly supported dependent or semi-independent placements. Linked to this is the withdrawal of state benefits to the majority of such young people, but with the expectation that their Local Authority will retain total financial responsibility towards them until they are 18.
- Strengthening the expectations on Local Authorities of maintaining support to such young people ('formerly relevant') until they are at least 21, and if in continuing education, until 24.
- Requiring that all potentially eligible and relevant young people should have a 'needs assessment' conducted on them between the age of 15 ³/₄ and 16 ¹/₄.
- Requiring that all such young people should have a 'Pathway Plan' mapping out their expected futures across a range of issues put in place around their 16th birthdays, which is regularly reviewed at least twice yearly until they are 21 (24).
- Requiring that all such young people should have Personal Advisors to co-ordinate and/or provide such assistance and support until they are 21 (24).

- Requiring Local Authorities to directly 'keep in touch' with all such young people at least quarterly (4 times per year) until they are 18, and at least twice per year until they are 21 (24).
- Placing the responsibility to ensure all the above happens with the 'Responsible Authority' i.e. the Authority the young person was last legally in 'care' of, irrespective of where that young later goes to live.

Definitions and Overlap

The Children (Leaving Care) Act introduces some new legal definitions of a young person's status – eligible, relevant, formerly relevant and qualifying. These are (broadly) explained in the diagram on the following pages. It needs to be understood however that as the Children Act and Children (Leaving Care) Act complement one another, not replace one another, a young person post 16 has a dual legal status e.g. Care Order/Looked After and eligible; S24 and relevant – reflecting these two pieces of legislation.

PHASES AND PRINCIPLES OF 'LEAVING CARE'

Leaving care should be a **process**, not a one-off event. Three phases should be comprehensively addressed, namely:-

1. Proper preparation, both practical and emotional, whilst a young person is in care for the time when they come to leave care
2. Ongoing planning whilst a young person is in care, increasing in its intensity at the point a young person is actually due to move on, to determine the best possible future for that young person across a range of issues
3. Support and assistance at least until the age of 21, and in some instances beyond, once a young person has actually left care

No matter at what stage a young person is being dealt with, 'leaving care' then needs to be considered at all times in an holistic way across a range of issues. All such issues fit together and are of equal importance. These are:

- Preparedness for independent living
- Support Networks, especially relationships with family in the widest sense
- Housing and Accommodation
- Money and Budgeting
- Employment/Training/Education
- Health – both Physical and Emotional
- Leisure and Social Interests
- Personal Confidence and Self Esteem
- Cultural Background
- Any Special Needs

What this approach then requires is not only individual young people to be viewed in this holistic way as they are dealt with individually or in groups by Workers, but that a truly corporate and 'joined up' approach is adopted by all Agencies working with such young people so that a range of resources and working protocols are brought to bear on helping young people leaving care as a whole.

LEAVING CARE PRINCIPLES

- **IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION**
 - **YOUNG PEOPLE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN RESPONSIBILITY AND ALLOWED TO MAKE MISTAKES**
- **YOUNG PEOPLE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DISCUSSING THEIR FUTURE**
- **STRONG EMPHASIS ON LEAVING CARE LATER RATHER THAN SOONER**
- **LEAVING CARE ON A PLANNED BASIS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH PATHWAY PLAN**
- **EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION/TRAINING/EMPLOYMENT**
- **ALL ADULTS INVOLVED WITH YOUNG PERSON WORKING TOGETHER IN TRUE PARTNERSHIP**
- **AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT A CHILD IS LEGALLY A CHILD UNTIL 18, NOT 16**

3. PARTNERSHIP WITH BARNARDOS

Since 1995, Manchester Local Authority has had in place a contractual arrangement with Barnardos for that Organisation to work together with the Social Services Department, partly to develop and partly to deliver aspects of Manchester's Leaving Care Service. Known as Barnardos Manchester Leaving Care Service (MLCS) finance for this arrangement is contributed (roughly) 75% by the Local Authority and 25% by Barnardos.

MLCS's structure is outlined in the diagram on the following page. Essentially, aside from Managers and Admin Staff, MLCS employs a mixture of Assessor/Planners and Qualified/Unqualified Leaving Care Personal Advisors who carry out the Pathway Planning and Personal Advice functions of the Children Leaving Care Act, and certain Specialist staff who have an advisory or development remit within their area of expertise. The remainder, and second part, of this protocol then describes in detail the roles of these staff in relation to young people leaving care and the partnership working arrangements with Manchester CFSC Staff. In very broad summary however these might be said to be:-

Preparation is the primary responsibility of CFSC Staff, and in particular day to day foster carers and residential workers to do it/deliver it, and Residential Unit Managers/Placement Service Managers and Family Placement Workers/Social Workers supervising young people in foster care to ensure it happens. MLCS will contribute advice and materials to this process.

Assessment and Planning (post 16) is a joint responsibility between CFSC Staff (mainly Social Workers and their Managers,) and MLCS (mainly Assessors/Planners and their Managers,) but obviously in wider consultation with various other parties involved with the young person.

Support (once a young person has legally left care) is the clear responsibility of MLCS.

Put another way, eligible young people are the primary responsibility of the CFSC Department, with specialist input and assistance from MLCS. Relevant and formerly relevant young people are the primary responsibility of MLCS, with reference back where appropriate (especially relating to money) to the CFSC.

4. PREPARATION WORK

Manchester CFSC Management Information Unit will send to MLCS once every 3 months a list of all young people legally 'Looked After' who will become aged 15 ½ in the ensuing 3 months.

MLCS, via their Development Worker Preparation (DWP) will then send out to all young people and their 'primary carer' – foster carer, residential key worker, parent, relative etc etc – a pack of 'preparation' materials. This will consist of (for the young person) a CD Rom; Diary of Young People's Experiences; Cookbook; and 'Who Cares about Health' Booklet; and (for the Carer) a video and accompanying preparation booklet. The pack will be accompanied by a letter to the Young Person/Primary Carer as to its purpose and expected use.

Primary Carers will then routinely be expected to make use of the materials they have been sent with the relevant young person they are responsible for. Residential Unit Managers (for young people in Manchester CFSC Residential Units) and Family Placement Workers (for young people in foster care) will be expected to put in place systems that both monitor the fact that Key Workers/Carers are both receiving these materials and using them with young people.

The MLCS DWP will be available on an individual basis to advise key workers/carers directly in the use of the materials. However doing the preparation work will be seen as the ongoing day to day responsibility of the carer/key worker etc.

A joint CFSC/MLCS training programme for staff and carers will be periodically delivered to further promote this expectation.

PREPARATION CHECKLIST

- PRACTICAL SKILLS SUCH AS COOKING, CLEANING, IRONING.
- TRAVELLING ABOUT BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.
- BASIC MANAGEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF MONEY. SAVING, SHOPPING, BUYING CLOTHES AND FOOD.
- UNDERSTANDING OF HEALTH ISSUES – SELF CARE, HEALTHY EATING AND LIVING, SEXUAL HEALTH.
- DEVELOPING PERSONAL CONFIDENCE.
- DEALING WITH ADULTS
- FORM FILLING
- SPEAKING UP FOR ONESELF
- SELF PRESENTATION IN A NON AGGRESSIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE WAY.

5. REFERRALS TO MLCS

Social Workers will mandatorily refer all young people looked after aged between 15 ³/₄ (minimum) and 16 ¹/₄ (maximum) to MLCS, using the current MLCS referral form. Accompanying this, as the form requires, will be a brief social history and the most recent care plan/review. Such a referral will apply to all such young people legally 'Looked After' by Manchester Local Authority, irrespective of where they are living (though see later section on providing a service to young people not resident within the boundaries of the City of Manchester).

The Duty Manager within MLCS will then telephone the referrer within 10 working days of the receipt of the referral to discuss the young person with the referrer. Besides checking the basic facts of the case and that all the necessary information has been enclosed, the MLCS Manager will come to a clear agreement with the referrer as to the cases allocation.

In most cases allocation will proceed (as outlined below). However in certain instances allocation will be delayed (e.g. the young person is currently too young; they may be a S20 case likely to return home before 16 and not meet the 'Leaving Care' criteria etc etc), in which case the MLCS Manager will agree a date with the referrer when they will update the young person's situation and make a further allocation decision.

If the young person does not meet the 'Leaving Care' criteria, no matter how needy their circumstances, they will not be allocated to a MLCS Worker.

In all of the above cases, the decision to accept, reject or delay allocating the referral, will be put in writing by MLCS to CFSC.

Unless the young person has already left a care placement and has gone to live independently / semi independently or with parents, (in which case MLCS will usually allocate the case directly to a Leaving Care Worker), most referrals will be allocated to an Assessor/Planner. In either instance allocation within MLCS will take place with a further ten working day period from the point agreement has been reached with the referrer to allocate the case.

A general point about referrals to MLCS that needs to be understood from the outset is that there should be an acknowledgement by both parties that what follows will be a period of joint working, not 'Leaving Care will now take over the case'. Thus the allocated Social Worker and MLCS Assessor/Planner will work together within the principles of the Leaving Care Act outlined earlier to ensure the young person is prepared properly and eventually leaves care in a planned and constructive fashion.

In this regard, in the true spirit of partnership working, and to ensure that the further joint commitment of a future 5 years of working with the young person under the terms of the Leaving Care Act remains meaningful, certain very specific potential referrals of S20 15 year olds who are not responding whatsoever to the input of CFSC will be the

subject of a prior joint discussion between CFSC and MLCS. Should the young person remain Accommodated, and become a 'legitimate' referral to MLCS post 16, this will be on the understanding that both parties are prepared to make a meaningful commitment to the young person whilst she/he remains legally a child.

REFERRALS TO MLCS

- BETWEEN 15 ³/₄ (EARLIEST AGE) AND 16 ¹/₄ (LATEST AGE)
- ON ALL LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THOSE AGES
- ON A MLCS REFERRAL FORM WITH ACCOMPANYING
 - BRIEF SOCIAL HISTORY (MANDATORY)
 - LATEST REVIEW (MANDATORY)
 - COPY BIRTH CERTIFICATE (MANDATORY)
 - N.I. NUMBER (IF KNOWN)
- AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JOINT WORKING UNLESS YOUNG PERSON IS ALREADY RELEVANT OR FORMERLY RELEVANT

6. ELIGIBLE/POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE; NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PATHWAY PLANNING; THE INITIAL ROLE OF MLCS ASSESSOR/PLANNERS

a) General Situation

- 'Looked After', soon to become 'eligible', young people will all have an allocated Social Worker who in turn has prepared a Care Plan in respect of that young person. That Plan will be being developed and discussed in consultation with that Social Worker's Manger and be being reviewed, at least 6 monthly, via a Quality Assurance Officer via the L.A.C reviewing process.
- However the Children (Leaving Care) Act imposes an additional duty on Local Authorities to conduct a 'needs assessment' on all eligible young people between the ages of 15 ³/₄ and 16 ¹/₄ , leading to the production of a Pathway Plan by the time of a young person is aged 16 ¹/₄. It is obviously acknowledged that there is potential for duplication here but this is the law and needs to be adhered to.
- Undertaking this Needs Assessment and formulating the Pathway Plan will be undertaken by MLCS (in most instances by Assessor/Planners). Once formulated the Plan will be updated and amended at least 6 monthly, either by MLCS Assessor/Planners or Leaving Care Personal Advisors and a summary of that plan fed into the LAC reviewing process at whatever point the plan is at the time of the relevant LAC Review meeting.

b) Specific Process

- The Assessor/Planner will meet the young person informally to introduce themselves and MLCS. Meeting the young person may be alone, or with their Social Worker/Primary Carer as circumstances best dictate. However, from the outset the young person and their view will be put at the centre of the process.
- In meeting the young person and introducing themselves (which may be over a series of meetings) the Assessor/Planner will.
 - check that the young person has received the preparation materials and has looked at them (if appropriate further copies should be given out).
 - give the young person a further booklet about MLCS, and explain the role of the Leaving Care Service over the coming 5 years.
 - begin to explain the need for an assessment and pathway plan and give the young person a copy of the Assessment Booklet 'Thinking about my Future.'

- Separately, or at the same initial meeting as the above, the Assessor/Planner will meet the young person's 'Primary Carer' and hear their opinions. The initial purpose here will again be to explain about leaving care generally, but also to check the Carer has received all the relevant preparation materials and understands the assessment and pathway planning process.
- Over a maximum of a 6 month period, the Assessor/Planner will then co-ordinate an assessment of the young person's situation. In so doing they will mandatorily consult
 - a) The young person (who will complete the assessment booklet, either alone or with help) via the CD Rohm or the booklet itself
 - b) The Primary Carer
 - c) The Social Worker (who will already have filled out a MLCS referral form plus sent a social history and the care plan to MLCS).
 - d) Any other interested parties (parents, relatives, professionals etc.etc.).
- In undertaking the last three (b→d) the Assessor/Planner will follow a set format, using the 'Holistic' headings long identified within MLCS current Assessments/Plans etc and as required by the Leaving Care Act. In actually completing this process however this will be done either by the Professional/Key worker concerned sending in comments or by the Assessor/Planner taking notes from conversations held.
- Either during the assessment period, or once that assessment is complete and prior to the drawing up of the Initial Pathway Plan, the Assessor/Planner will additionally have available to give to/share with the young person and their 'Primary Carer' MLCS booklets on accommodation options, education/employment/training options and money, plus a video about MLCS.
- As stated above, the Assessor/Planner will then formulate, using certain prescribed headings, an Initial Pathway Plan. Essentially this will contain background and summary information before outlining Plans for the young person, both over the next five years and then the next six months. Though the Assessor/Planner will write the Plan, they will share it in a face to face meeting with the young person and allow an opportunity for that young person to express their consent/dissent etc.etc. This will be recorded as part of the Plan.
- The timescale for completion of the assessment and Initial Pathway Plan will be by the time the young person reaches the age of 16 1/4. Copies of the Plan will be given to the Young Person; Primary Carer; Social Worker; (Others)
- Once written, the Initial Pathway Plan will then be 'fed into' the next LAC review on the young person, chaired by a Q.A. Officer, at the point in that review which looks at 'aftercare' arrangements. The Plan will then become part of/compliment the Care Plan for that young person.

ROLE OF MLCS
ASSESSOR/PLANNERS

- INITIALLY TO CONDUCT AS ASSESSMENT, AND THEN TO WRITE AN INITIAL PATHWAY PLAN.

- THEREAFTER TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE YOUNG PERSON, THEIR SOCIAL WORKER, CARERS AND OTHER AGENCIES TO PROGRESS THE PATHWAY PLAN WHILST THE YOUNG PERSON REMAINS AN ELIGIBLE CHILD.

7. JOINT WORKING BETWEEN MLCS AND CFSC DURING THE PERIOD OF THE LEAVING CARE ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE PATHWAY PLAN, AND THEREAFTER WHILST THE YOUNG PERSON REMAINS AN ELIGIBLE CHILD

- Whilst the young person remains an ‘eligible’ child, case responsibility for that young person will lie with the CFSC. MLCS will always attempt to be as helpful as possible to CFSC in ensuring the young person’s identified needs are met, but MLCS will not be expected to carry out the CFSC’s statutory obligations under the LAC system, other than by agreement (on behalf of CFSC) and where MLCS is able to help. In practical terms, this will mean the following.
- During the period of the ‘Needs Assessment’, which should have an absolute maximum of no more than 6 months, the only direct role MLCS’s Assessor/Planners will automatically play will be to proactively conduct that assessment and ensure it is as comprehensive and meaningful as possible. In so doing Assessor/Planners will follow the specific process outlined in Section 6 above.
- If during this period the young person falls into some sort of crisis situation, most likely to do with accommodation/placement breakdown, they will very clearly be dealt with under the CFSC’s LAC procedures – Review of Care Plan, Disruption Meeting etc etc – and be the clear responsibility of CFSC to resolve. MLCS, mainly via the allocated Assessor/Planned or perhaps via its Accommodation Development Worker or one of its Service Delivery Team Managers, will however at this point feed in any knowledge of alternative options that may exist and may indeed, by arrangement with CFSC, help facilitate such an option. Nevertheless the responsibility to find the young person a placement will remain very firmly with the CFSC.
- The above situation will usually be the exception. More generally the young person will remain in their original placement and again, as per the specific process outlined in Section 6 above, the allocated MLCS Assessor/Planner will write the young person’s Initial Pathway Plan. Whilst the young person remains eligible this Plan will be formally updated, at least 1 per 6 months, again usually by a MLCS Assessor/Planner, in consultation with the young person and all other interested parties.
- The Plan itself will contain specific actions to be taken by named parties. There will be no assumption that all these actions will be carried out automatically by either MLCS or CFSC; instead such actions will be jointly negotiated as to who is in the best position to carry them out vis a vis knowledge of, and the needs of, the young person. This could mean that either MLCS, or CFSC (including that young persons foster carer, residential worker), or designated third parties – Connexions Workers, Designated Teachers etc, etc could all play an agreed role.

- If the Plan is going seriously wrong and for example the young person's placement is in danger of breaking down, no move should take place whatsoever without a disruption meeting held with all parties invited to participate. Discussion about the placement should then be, no matter how difficult, within the context of the agreed principles for leaving care outlined earlier, and within the context of the young person only moving to another placement as a constructive alternative to the one they are placed in. Under no circumstances should young people be sent to 'homeless' accommodation as an alternative to a 'care' placement. Under new Homelessness legislation, Manchester Housing have no duty to house homeless eligible or relevant young people. If all else fails and it seems the placement cannot continue, then the onus will be on the CFSC to find, with MLCS's input and advice, an alternative 'care' placement.
- Once the Pathway Plan exists, it will be fed into the CFSC LAC Review Procedure overseen by CFSC QA Officers. It is suggested that the Pathway Plan, rather than the Care Plan, then becomes the major of the two documents forming the basis of such future reviews as its content and input in formulation by the young person concerned may make it more relevant to that young person as discussion about their future develops.
- One part of the Pathway Plan which it will always be important to agree whilst the young person is still an eligible child is the contingency arrangements for what happens if things later go wrong, especially when an Accommodated child is to be 'de-accommodated' prior to age 18 and become a relevant child. For this reason a proper review meeting will always be held, preferably just before a S20 eligible child is to be de-accommodated, or if this is not possible within 5 days of this event actually happening. Such a meeting will be chaired by QA and will also be attended by the relevant Social Worker/Team Manager and the MLCS Worker. Contingency arrangements as to what should happen if the 'new' situation does not work out satisfactorily will be one of the main focuses of such meetings.
- Whilst it is accepted by all parties in the spirit of this Protocol that such circumstances should be used sparingly, nevertheless one future option open to the MLCS Worker now taking primary responsibility for the young person whilst they remain relevant will be to call an 'All Options' meeting if subsequently the young person's discharge from 'care' goes seriously wrong. Such a meeting will again be chaired by a QA officer, with attendance from the young persons original Social Worker/Team Manager and the MLCS Worker (and others if appropriate). Whilst this will be seen as an infrequent outcome, nevertheless a return to 'care' and some form of 'care' placement will be one of the options open to such a meeting to enact.

8. WORKING WITH RELEVANT AND FORMERLY RELEVANT YOUNG PEOPLE

- In general terms, MLCS will undertake primary responsibility for all work with relevant, formerly relevant and S24 young people. This will happen in planning terms as follows
- Within (about) 3 months prior to actually leaving a 'care' situation, MLCS will allocate the young person to a MLCS Leaving Care Worker (Personal Advisor). Either jointly with the Assessor/Planner or alone, the MLCS Leaving Care Worker will take over responsibility for updating the Pathway Plan as well as of course becoming the Personal Adviser to the young person.
- Once the young person legally ceases to be a 'looked after child' and becomes either relevant or formally relevant under the Children Leaving Care Act, the responsibility to amend/update the Pathway Plan, and to review it, will pass solely to MLCS
- The process of so doing will now reflect the age and situation of the young person. However at minimum the Plan will always be updated in direct consultation with/active involvement of the young person. The process of reviewing that Plan will fall to the relevant Team Manager within MLCS, but this will be done (according to the circumstances of the young person) either 'on paper', in supervision, or via a meeting with the young person/leaving care worker/others as appropriate.
- As when referrals are first received, MLCS will inform the CFSC in writing who the allocated MLCS Leaving Care Worker is. This is important as although the case no longer be allocated to a Social Worker, the CFSC Team Manager will probably have a number of dealings with the case in respect of the 16/21 Financial Policy. An alternative point of contact for the CFSC Team Manager aside from the MLCS Leaving Care Worker will always be a MLCS Team Manager or MLCS's Duty System.

ROLE OF MLCS LEAVING CARE WORKERS (PERSONAL ADVISORS)

- TO TAKE 'CASE RESPONSIBILITY' FOR RELEVANT AND FORMERLY RELEVANT YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT CARE
- TO UPDATE PATHWAY PLANS ON SUCH YOUNG PEOPLE
- TO SUPPORT SUCH YOUNG UNTIL 21 (AND OCCASIONALLY BEYOND)

9. DEALING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE 'LOOKED AFTER' BY/FOR WHOM THEIR RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY IS MANCHESTER, BUT WHO DO NOT RESIDE IN MANCHESTER

- Such young people will either have a Manchester Social Worker visiting them and playing an 'active' social work role as with any other 'Looked After' child, or another Authority will be carrying out this function by agreement with Manchester on Manchester's behalf.
- The obvious 'problem' with such young people, exacerbated the further away from Manchester they live, is how do you realistically provide a meaningful service to someone on a regular basis when they live so far away and you neither know fully the local resources or have the time to visit that young person on any sort of meaningful basis. In 'Leaving Care' terms, the following will prevail:-
- Referrals to MLCS (as above) will still be made on ALL such young people as they are about to become eligible. Referrals will either be made by the Manchester Social Worker of the Social Worker supervising the case in the other Authority on Manchester's behalf.
- MLCS will then attempt to write an Initial Pathway Plan, or to organise such a document being written. It is acknowledged that for all the obvious practical reasons the process of completing this document may not be able to be as comprehensive as previously described in this document. It also may be more appropriate in this instance only if the Plan is written by a Manchester Social Worker based on the existing LAC Care Plan or by the local supervising Social Worker who knows the young person best, but MLCS will attempt to negotiate this with the individual concerned. In the majority of instances however a MLCS Assessor/Planner will write the Plan.
- Whilst the young person remains eligible/looked after, the same issue re updating the Plan will arise. Again the principle of MLCS doing this, with occasional agreed exceptions (as above) will prevail.
- When such a young person becomes relevant or formerly relevant and leaves care, a referral will be made to the local Leaving Care Team, enclosing the most recent version of the Pathway Plan. Again MLCS will usually make this referral, unless by agreement it is done by the Manchester Social Worker/Supervising Worker as they know the young person much better. In accepting such a referral the expectation will be that the local leaving care team provide a service and update the Pathway Plan, but sends a copy back to Manchester Social Services/Leaving Care for reference. This is the service that Manchester Leaving Care would provide for any other Authority. Obviously if the young person did return to Manchester or very nearby, MLCS would resume responsibility for providing that young person with a 'left care' service.

- All the above will take place within the guidelines of the 'North West Agreement on the Transfer of Leaving Care Work Protocol' which Manchester will adopt, not just in relation to North West Cases, but also in cases coming from, or transferring to, other Authorities. Within the terms of that policy Manchester will thus provide @ Leaving Care Service 'free' to incoming cases, but will expect the same in return. In instances where the 'Receiving Authority' refuse to provide a service, or will only do so if a charge is made (in which instance Manchester would not enter into such an arrangement), MLCS will try to find another local agency – Connexions, a Voluntary Organisation etc – who might be able to offer a local 'Personal Advisor' Service, with reference back to MLCS for any monies due under the 16-21 Policy or other matters.