



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
QUESTION ON NOTICE

ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Child Protection, CSD Annual Report 2020–21, p. 39

In relation to: Additional Supports for Care Leavers

1. In the hearing, it was stated that the COVID-related extra support payments for care leavers were not given to all care leavers but to those who were 'most in need'. How many young people left care during this period, and how was it determined that the 75 recipients were most in need?
2. How is the directorate able to report the exact items on which this funding was spent by individual care leavers (for example, CIT courses and musical instruments)?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The financial support was provided to young people to support either their living expenses, housing costs or connect them with training and employment. The young people prioritised for this payment were those who may not otherwise be receiving support under existing schemes, who have been in out of home care. The focus was to provide certainty and stability in their living arrangements.

All young people aged up to 25 years who have been in care are eligible for Aftercare Support when they leave care, such as information, guidance, and referrals to services. For some young people, more intensive, longer-term assistance may be needed. Depending on individual needs, this support may include case work coordination, planning and oversight of therapeutic responses and counselling, practical supports (eg: assistance with housing applications or driving lessons), and financial support for young adults with high and complex needs.

The number of young people who turned 18 or were going to turn 18 in the eligibility period for this payment was 34. Forty-one (41) young people residing in residential care also received the COVID support payment, but did not turn 18 in the time period.

2. CYPs staff had direct and detailed conversations with the young people about what support they required.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

22 / 3 / 22

By the Minister for Families and Community Services, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA