

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

12 October 2015

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLEDGE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1 Why has this report come to the Committee

1.1.1 In their role as corporate parents, members need to be updated on the progress of the pledge to all looked after children and young people in Sunderland.

2 Pledge

2.1 The Pledge is a key element of the Government's recommendations under Care Matters: Time for Change. It represents a commitment by the local authority to looked after children and young people, and signals the intention of the Council to carry out its responsibilities to children in care effectively and in a way which will have real impact upon outcomes.

2.2 In 2014 it was acknowledge that the pledge we originally launched in Sunderland in 2010 had not been reviewed or updated so the group set about to look at this.

2.3 Young people in the change council identified the 6 main priorities for them in the pledge. Each pledge identified is owned by a young person in care, they hold the responsibility as critical friend. The young person has been buddied up with a corporate board member and councillor who will act as the strategic drivers.

2.3 On Wednesday 2nd September a workshop was held with all the pledge buddies at the city library and arts centre. Young people were introduced to their pledge buddies and worked together in the session focussing on the following;

- What does this pledge mean to you? (both young person and CPB member)
- What would you like to achieve as a group for your pledge?
- How can this pledge be used to ensure good services for children and young people?
- How can we ensure we use the pledge to hear the voices of children and young people?
- How will you as a group work together to drive your pledge forward within services?

3 Pledge Table

3.1 .

Pledge	Young Person	CPB Member	CPB -Councilor
1. If possible I want to live with my own family or relatives	Saul Cranson	Neil Revely Executive Director, People Directorate	Cllr Louise Farthing
2. If you need to come into care we will make sure that you are safe and properly cared for	Kate Service	Martin Birch Interim Head of LAC	Cllr Paul Stewart
3. I feel I am being listened to	Geraldine Dellet	Kerry Mehta Interim Head of Safeguarding	Cllr Rebecca Atkinson
4. I want to get a good education and enjoy my free time	Kirk Scotter Gabby Turner	Dawn Shearsmith Virtual Head	Cllr Patricia Smith
5. I want to keep fit & Healthy	Billy Hardy	Anne Brock Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse	Cllr Daryl Dixon
6. I don't want to leave care Until I feel Ready	Kieran Boyce	Sheila Lough Strategic Service Manager	Cllr Christine Marshall

4 Action Plan

- 4.1 Each group have agreed to meet up throughout the year to work on their pledge. They have all completed an action plan that will be shared throughout the year at CPB.
- 4.2 It was agreed at the workshop that 2 pledges would be reviewed at each CPB on a rotating basis. Starting in February, rotation will be decided in discussion with the young people at their next change council meeting.

4.3 Communications will be attending the next Change Council meeting to look at how we progress with communicating this message to all.

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