

## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

30 January 2017

### SUNDERLAND'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S PLEDGE

#### Report of the Participation and Engagement Lead

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 To inform and update corporate parents on the progression of Sunderland Looked After Children's Pledge.
- 1.2 The Pledge was reviewed and agreed by Sunderland People's Directorate and Corporate Parenting Board, and most importantly, with our young people through the Change Council (Sunderland's Children in Care Council) in a workshop held in September 2015, who have contributed significantly to assist us in reviewing the current pledge in a meaningful way.
- 1.3 The aim of the pledges are;
  - to empower the child or young person and those who care for them
  - to inform individual care planning
  - to be used as a tool to help improve services for all children and young people who are looked after
  - to inform the child or young person of their rights and opportunities
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The pledges that have been identified by our young people is our statement of intent to our young people.

#### 2. Our Pledge

| Pledge                                                        | Young Person                     | CPB Member                                                  | CPB -Councillor                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. If possible I want to live with my own family or relatives | Saul Cranson<br>Luke Bittlestone | <b>Catherine Witt</b><br>Chief Social Worker<br>(Confirmed) | <b>Cllr Louise Farthing</b><br><br>(Confirmed) |

|                                                                                             |                                      |                                                                             |                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. If you need to come into care we will make sure that you are safe and properly cared for | Leighton Conlon<br>Blaine Richardson | <b>Sharon Willis</b><br>Service Manager<br>(Confirmed)                      | <b>CLlr Paul Stewart</b><br><b>(confirmed)</b>       |
| 3. I feel I am being listened to                                                            | Loren Nergaard                       | <b>Debra Patterson</b><br>Director of Children's Social Care<br>(confirmed) | <b>CLlr Rebecca Atkinson</b>                         |
| 4. I want to get a good education and enjoy my free time                                    | Kirk Scotter<br>Gabby Turner         | <b>Simon Marshall</b><br>Director of Education<br>(Confirmed)               | <b>FREE</b>                                          |
| 5. I want to keep fit & Healthy                                                             | Billy Hardy<br>Tyler Davison         | <b>Anne Brock</b><br>Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse<br>(confirmed)        | <b>CLlr Daryl Dixon</b>                              |
| 6. I don't want to leave care Until I feel Ready                                            | Kieran Boyce<br>Dylan Breeze         | <b>Sheila Lough</b><br>Strategic Service Manager<br>(confirmed)             | <b>CLlr Christine Marshall</b><br><b>(confirmed)</b> |

### 3. Pledge Update

- 3.1 The updated pledge is in the process of currently being reviewed by Sunderland's Change Council.
- 3.2 An email has been circulated to ask buddies if they wish to continue with their pledge, see table for updated information.
- 3.3 It has been agreed to host a workshop at the end of February 2017 to look at the progress that has been made and what we would like to achieve over the next 12 months.

### 4. Items for discussion

- 1. Communicating the Pledge to children, young people, foster carers, staff and others?
- 2. Action plans to monitor outcomes, making the pledges meaningful to both young people and the service.

3. How often will the pledges be reviewed at Corporate Parenting Board?



**Full explanation of pledges:**

**1 We will support you to live with your own family or with relatives wherever possible.**

**2 If you need to come into care, we will make sure that you are safe and properly cared for:**

- We will ensure that being in care is a positive experience for you, that your needs are met and your hopes for the future are supported and encouraged
- You will have a qualified social worker and we will not change the social worker unless it is for a good reason and it is discussed with you
- You will be consulted about your care, and will have an up to date care plan which covers the things which are important for you and for your future
- You will get the right support to help to do things you need to do because of your culture, religion or ethnic background
- You will have a place to live with carers who will meet your needs
- You will be helped to keep in touch with members of your family. If regular visits are not possible we will help you keep in touch by telephone calls or letters, and if you do not see your family for a long time we will make sure that important information about your family is kept for you

**3 We will ensure that you are listened to:**

- Your views and wishes will be taken into account when we work with you to make your Care Plan and you will be involved in any decisions about your life or changes in the services you need
- We will explain things to you in a way that you will understand
- You will have an Independent Reviewing Officer, to co-ordinate your looked after review, and whom you can contact in between reviews if you are concerned about anything.
- You may have an Independent Visitor to support you if you need it
- If you want to say anything about the service you receive you can have an Independent Advocate to help you to make a complaint, suggestion or compliment

**4 We will help you to get a good education and enjoy your leisure time:**

- You will go to the best school for you and have a designated teacher to make sure you get the help you need. We will not make you change school without good reason
- You will have a Personal Education Plan which sets out what you need to achieve in

school and what support you need to fully enjoy school life, including going to after school clubs and activities, trips and educational visits, and extra help if you fall behind

- We will support you to enjoy leisure activities, including sport, music, the arts, hobbies, clubs and young people's organisations.

**5 We will ensure you are supported to keep fit and healthy:**

- You will get the best health advice possible from the health assessment team
- You will be offered a full health assessment and an annual health review which will be done in a way which suits you best
- We will make sure that you get the right services to deal with any health problems properly,
- We will help you to learn to look after your own health.

**6 We will work with you to make sure you do not leave care before you are ready:**

- If you cannot return to live with your own family we will help you to move into good quality accommodation,
- You will have a Pathway Plan which sets out the help and support you will need for your own situation
- We will support you to get further education, employment or training.
- We will give you practical and financial support if you wish to go to college or university.

**We will Listen to you**

**We will Respect you**

**We will be Proud of you**