

## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

**10 October 2016**

### SUNDERLAND 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's Looked After Children's Pledge.
- 1.2 The Pledge was reviewed and agreed by Sunderland's People 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. Our young people 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 councilor who will act as the strategic drivers.
- 1.5 The pledges that have been identified by our young people are our statement of intent to our young people.

## 2.0 Our Pledge

Pledge	Young Person	CPB Member	CPB -Councilor
1. If possible I want to live with my own family or relatives	Saul Cranson Luke Bittlestone	<b>Catherine Witt</b> Chief Social Worker	<b>CLlr Louise Farthing</b>

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

### **3.0 Pledge Update**

- 3.1 The updated pledge has now been in place for over 12 months.
- 3.2 Pledge 2, 5 and 6 have all updated the Corporate Parenting Board on their progress over the past nine months.
- 3.3 It has to be acknowledged that changes have been made to pledges over the past 12 months due to changes with young people and corporate buddies.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

- 4.1 To identify a corporate pledge lead to ensure that pledges are worked on and actions are addressed.
- 4.2 To agree a timetable for pledge updates to be brought to Corporate Parenting board.
- 4.3 To support the arrangement of another workshop, where all pledge young people and buddies meet together to share best practice and look at how we can ensure the pledges inform planning in the future.