



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee
26 July 2016**

ITEM 6

Report of the Strategic Director of People
Services

**Update on Implementation of Commitments regarding Pledge for
Children in Care**

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Pledge is a promise made by Derby City Council to all children in their care. The Pledge is part of Derby's commitment to give children in their care the best opportunities they can have in life.

Departments across the council gave commitments to implementing the New Pledge at its launch on 26th January 2016

- 1.2 The Corporate Parenting Committee tasked itself to ensure the whole council was fully committed to the Pledge. As part of this overview the Corporate Parenting Committee has scheduled regular updates and progress monitoring of the departments commitments. It has now been six months since the initial commitments were given. The Corporate Parenting Committee wanted an update on the progress made.

- 1.3 The Corporate Parenting Committee held a special event on 5th July 2016, in the Council Chamber, Directors from all the departments in the council were invited to give a formal update on the progress made in relation to their pledges made back in January.

As well as directors the invitation was also made to the Children in Care Council. There was a good representation from the members of the council who attended the meeting and participated in the discussions.

It has now been six months since the initial pledges were made and some good progress made against the commitments. These included:

- Leaving Care forum now up and running. Care leavers voices are being heard and they are helping shape services and support. All care leavers now have a bank account and passport
- 'Take Over Day' Planned for December 2016.
- All children and young people in care now receive a profile of their social worker on allocation. Some further work to do on this to ensure the profiles are consistent. Some members of the children in care council had not received these.
- Funding has been secured and pathway under development for enhanced

support to meet mental health and psychological needs of children and young people. This service is planned to go live in September 2016

- Officers in CYP have been working with Derby College to ensure that Care Leavers are included in their apprenticeship academy programmes.
- Senior School Improvement Officers continue to challenge schools about the progress which CiC make. In addition, the Head of the Virtual School has strengthened the ePEP system and is consulting with CiC about the right level of rewards for Year 6 and Y11 children.
- Developed a new method for funding top up which places the decision making at a school level and will mean that some children with special educational needs (including Children in Care) won't have to go through a long a formal assessment for additional support.
- Adult social care PFA has 9 LAC without an allocated worker at present. This is due to case work pressures in the team. They have agreed some additional resource to boost capacity and this shall address this issue by Sept 2016.
- In the next CiC newsletter Adult social care will ask for expressions of interest in gaining work experience in our care homes and day centres.
- Two apprenticeships identified in Adult social care, one in finance and the other in intermediate care. Seeking one more business area to place a young person.
- Communities and Place will explore the possibility of giving Independent Visitor entitlement to a Recreational Leisure Card.
- The Summer reading challenge is due to start on the 16 July and runs until the 17 September. Details of the challenge have been sent to foster carers via official mailings. The theme for this year is the Big Friendly Read celebrating 100 year since the birth of Roald Dahl. The challenge is to read six library books during the summer and those taking part can collect six Quentin Blake illustration to go in a special wallet. Last year 3,500 children took part.
- Plus One project continues to deliver creative and cultural experiences for children in care. A coordinator role has been developed for the project and is currently hosted by Derby Theatre.
- Small Arts Grants – Strategic Priorities for funding have been updated to include “Provide opportunities for children in care and care leavers to participate in cultural activities”. Whilst not all project applications will fit this criteria, applicants are being encouraged to consider how their activity could support this priority.
- Organisation and Governance Department have recently recruited two apprentices to permanent positions and are looking to fund further placements

if affordable.

- Derby's CYP Participation Officer has supported and attended five Leaving Care Youth Forum meetings to date and provided 'arms-length' support to a further three meetings. This has included helping to set the agendas, recording the minutes and coordinating feedback to Care Leavers. The CYP Participation Officer has also supported two Care Leavers to represent the views of the Forum to the Leaving Care Improvement Board
- Derby Homes - A meeting has been held with the Connexions Team who monitor the progress of care leavers, such as employment and training for the care leavers to discuss the process. Details of potential opportunities at Derby Homes will be shared with the young people identified who are ready to undertake this opportunity.
- Key links identified within DH and CYP and meetings scheduled. Focus on strengthened links between CYP and Tenancy Sustainment teams ensuring correct package is tailored and delivered.
- A 'Just Imagine Working Here' event is planned for children in care and care leavers on 2 August at the council house.

- 1.4 The Corporate Parenting Committee will undertake further progress monitoring of the Pledge commitments. There is a one year anniversary Corporate Parenting Committee planned for in January 2017 to get further updates of progress made, which will include the involvement of the Children in Care Council.

RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To receive the report

2.2 To note progress made by the different departments and comment as appropriate

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 For Derby City Council to undertake its wider corporate parenting obligations and to ensure children in care are provided opportunities, support and services to help promote their development and well being
- 3.2 To ensure the Corporate Parenting Committee is up to date with the progress made in relation to the commitments made.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 See attached updated Pledge commitments document for full detailed information about the commitments from each department, their impact and progress made as at July 2016

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Non applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Suanne Lim, Acting Director of Specialist Services 01332 642669
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Pervez Akhtar 01332 641120 Pervez.Akhtar@derby.gov.uk Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Update of Commitments to Support the Pledge for Children in Care – July 2016

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There will be financial implications for some of the commitments made. It is difficult to anticipate what these implications will be given based on the proposals. The commitments

Legal

- 2.1 There is legal duty for the authority to meet the needs of children and young people for whom it is the corporate parent. The Pledge reaffirms aspects of statutory duties that the LA has towards children in our care

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report

IT

- 4.1 None arising from this report

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The Pledge ensures that children in care are provided services, advice and support to meet their individual and collective needs.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None arising from this report

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report

Risk Management

- 9.1 None arising from this report

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The content of this report underpins the priority commitment, Protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people. Making sure that we take action to safeguard vulnerable adults and children that require higher levels of support including; our looked after children and vulnerable adults with learning disabilities. This will involve early intervention and prevention wherever possible.