



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee  
26 January 2016**

Report of the Acting Strategic Director for  
Children and Young People

# ITEM 4

## The Pledge

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Pledge is a promise made by Derby City Council to all Derby City children in care and leaving care. The Pledge is part of Derby's commitment to give children in care and leaving care the best opportunities they can have in life. All adults who work for and with the Council will make a commitment to work to the Pledge at all times.

The Pledge was originally conceived by the Derby City Children in Care Council throughout 2012

- 1.2 From June 15 – August 15, The Children in Care Council have led work to update and develop a new Pledge. Looked after children have been asked to highlight their top ten priorities, which have formed the new Pledge.
- 1.3 The updated Pledge will be launched at a special Corporate Parenting Committee and implemented in 2016. Derby City Council and its members are Corporate Parents for children in care. It is expected that they embrace, support and implement the Pledge throughout their duties and service provisions.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To receive the new Pledge.
- 2.2 To commit to implementing the Pledge across the council and corporate parenting partners.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 There is an expectation for all local authorities to work with children and young people to develop a 'Pledge' for the children in their care. The pledge is a statement about the support and services children in care can expect to receive
- 3.2 Care Matters (2006) identified underpinning principles that Local Authorities must adhere to in complying with the basic statutory duties relating to Looked After

Children. It places a responsibility on Local Authorities to ensure children in care have been consulted and involved in developing the pledge and the regular review of the 'Pledge'

As corporate parents the council members and its officers have a duty to ensure the implementation of the Pledge. This should include consideration about services and functions of each department and how this can support the provisions within the Pledge.

<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>
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- 4.1 New Pledge attached. A presentation of the pledge will be made by members the children in care council at the Corporate Parenting Committee Meeting on 26 January 2016.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 None applicable

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Andy Smith - Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Pervez Akhtar 01332 641120 pervez.akhtar@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – The Pledge

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 None Arising from this report

**Legal**

- 2.1 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 commitments of 'Enforcement and compliance and Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people and adults' under the Council pledge of 'safe'.

Enforcement and compliance – focusing on making sure that we are meeting our statutory duties for keeping people of all ages appropriately safe and working with local businesses and the police to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Safeguarding children, young people and adults – making sure that we take action when vulnerable adults and children require higher levels of support including; our looked after children and vulnerable adults with learning disabilities.