



Derby City Council

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE **23 February 2016**

ITEM 6

Report of the Acting Strategic Director for
Children and Young People

Implementing the 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. The Pledge is a commitment about the support and services children in care can expect to receive. All adults who work for and with the Council are required to make a commitment to work to the Pledge at all times.
- 1.2 The previous Pledge was conceived by the children in care council in 2012, it had 28 commitments. It was felt that it was too long and the commitments needed to be updated and be more aspirational. From June to August 2015, the children in care council took on the task of updating the Pledge. Various consultations were undertaken with children and young people in care. Looked after children and young people were asked to highlight what was important for them and identify their top ten priorities. These priorities have formed the new Pledge.
- 1.3 The new Pledge was accepted and launched at a special Corporate Parenting Committee held in the Council Chamber on 26th January 2016. As part of the launch of the Pledge all strategic and service directors from across the council were invited to attend the Corporate Parenting Committee. Members of the children in care council did a presentation about the Pledge
- 1.4 Strategic and service directors were asked to give commitments outlining what their departments will do to support the Pledge and in turn exercise the council's corporate parenting responsibilities for children in care. There were some very important and innovative commitments made to implementing the pledge from across the council. There are also a number of key themes across department's that have been identified. These include:
 - Provide apprenticeship opportunities for children in care in the Council.
 - Work experience opportunities
 - Voice of children and young people in care
- 1.5 It is proposed that to start off the promotion and marketing of the Pledge a formal sign up is undertaken by senior leaders in the council. Councillor Sara Bolton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding and Andy Smith, Acting Strategic Director Children and Young People formally sign the document. This will

be undertaken at a formal press ceremony planned for 2nd March 2016. Members of the children in care council will be involved.

- 1.6 The Corporate Parenting Committee will monitor the progress of implementing the Pledge across the council. It is proposed that progress on implementing the commitments will be reported by each department to the Corporate Parenting Committee in July 2016 and there upon reviewed regularly.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To accept the commitments made by the departments
- 2.2 To agree the launch and further promotion and implementation of the Pledge
- 2.3 To review progress on commitment implementation by the different directorates in July 2016

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 Pledge is publicised and commitments made by the directorates are implemented successfully and make a positive difference for children in care

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 See attached detailed report which includes context and commitments made by the different directorates

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	 Andy Smith - Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People
For more information contact: Background papers:	Pervez Akhtar 01332 641120 Pervez.Akhtar@derby.gov.uk

List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Implementing the Pledge for Children in Care
----------------------------	--

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 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.