



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee**  
**26 April 2016**

Report of the Strategic Director of People  
Services

# ITEM 7

## **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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 update and progress monitoring of the departments commitments. It has now been two months since the initial commitments were given. The Corporate Parenting Committee wanted an update on the progress made.
- 1.3 Whilst it has only been a relatively short time there has been some very good progress made against the commitments. These include:

- 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
- All children and young people in care now receive a profile of their social worker on allocation
- Funding has been secured and pathway under development for enhanced support to meet mental health and psychological needs of children and young people
- There has been improved working together between departments, in particular between adults services and children's services. This is with a view to improving transitions planning.
- There has been progress on the reward and incentive scheme to improve educational outcomes and attendance for children in care. The scheme is now up and running
- Quality assurance system for e peps now in place and takes place on a weekly basis. All visits to schools and academies have been completed and data

collected. Pupil Premium plus funds have been allocated to schools to support strategies in raising the achievement of Children in Care.

- The library service is sending details of all forthcoming events for children and young people to foster carers and Children's Residential Homes
- Additional stay safe advice and guidance has been made available to schools and throughout the council and promotion of resources. The secure gateways are in place and have been tested to meet best practice and compliance standards
- Performance data is being generated and used appropriately to inform planning. Quarter 3 performance results were considered by the CYP Improvement Board in January 2016 – stability of placements for our looked after children was a strength and audit outcomes on the quality of casework is 'good' with our looked after children and young people being appropriately safeguarded.
- 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
- There is considerable work that has been completed and being developed further to ensure that children and young people's views are incorporated in service review and planning. This includes the 2016/17 forward plan for the Strategic Engagement Group. An Annual Engagement Report will be drafted in Summer 2016 that will incorporate examples of how we have listened to our looked after children and young people.
- The CYP Participation Officer supported the Virtual School to develop a 'voice booklet' in 2015. This aim of this was to make sure that the voice of looked after children and young people inform and shape their personal education plan (PEP)
- Organisation & Governance – Finance. Two apprenticeship opportunities which were recruited to through Derby Adult Learning Service. However did not receive any applications to consider from children in care or care leavers, as had hoped. Hope that future applications through DALs from children in care and care leavers.

Further progress is required for:

- There are a number of departments that made commitments to allocate apprenticeships for children in care. The progress in this area has been variable. This is an area that requires further development across the organisation

- 1.4 The Corporate Parenting Committee will undertake further progress monitoring of the Pledge commitments throughout 2016 and beyond.

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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- 2.1 To receive the report
- 2.2 To note progress made by the different departments and comment as appropriate

<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>
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- 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.

<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>
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- 4.1 See attached updated Pledge commitments document for full detailed information about the commitments from each department, their impact and progress made.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 Non 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>	Hazel Lymbery Director of Specialist Services 01332 642669 hazel.lymbery@derby.gov.uk
<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 - See attached report – Update of Commitments to Support the Pledge for Children in Care - April 2016
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<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**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.