



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
20 March 2013

Appendix 2

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Looked After and Adopted Children and Young People Strategy
2012 - 2015**

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Local Authority strategy for all Looked after children, adopted children and young people who are in the care of Derby City Council.
- 1.2 The strategy is aimed at all partners, elected members and Directorates across the City Council as a means to secure the best possible outcomes for all looked after children; adopted children and young people who are cared for by the Local Authority. The strategy reinforces the Corporate Parenting responsibilities of all partners, staff and elected members in promoting the needs of all looked after children.
- 1.3 This strategy will underpin the work of operational services responsible in meeting the individual care planning needs for all looked after children, adopted children and young people; and inform future commissioning needs.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note and support the strategy, its implementation and review of the Improvement Plan throughout the lifetime of the strategy.
- 2.2 To establish a review programme through the Corporate Parenting Sub-Board, developing contributions and presentations from partner agencies responsible in delivering upon strategy imperatives.
- 2.3 To receive quarterly reports at Council Cabinet under agenda item 'Looked after Children Strategy Update.'

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Looked After and Adopted Children and Young People Strategy 2012 – 2015, has been drawn up in consultation with partners across the Derby Safeguarding Children's Board; Children and Families Learners Board; the Children in Care Strategic Group and with input from members of the Children in Care Council. Input has been provided from staff members in the Children in Care and Regulated Service area within the Children and Young People's Directorate and with input from the

Directorate Management Team.

- 3.2 The strategy is a key strategy that will inform the Corporate Parenting Strategy for the Local Authority and effectively support and improve services for all looked after children. Providing rigour and challenge to develop a comprehensive City wide approach to raising standards and outcomes for looked after children.



SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 This is a Multi-Agency Strategy which sets out all the partners' commitment to improving the life chances of our Looked after Children and Young People, and those leaving care.
- 4.2 This strategy will support the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2013, which sets out four key priorities for children and young people across the City.
- Keep children and young people safe.
 - Raise educational attainment.
 - Improve children's health and well-being.
 - Narrowing the gap.
- 4.3 The overriding aim, which underpins all of these priorities, is right service, right place, and right time: early help to support improved outcomes in children's health, safeguarding and learning.
- 4.4 Working together, with our partners, to achieve these priorities will allow us to achieve the six outcomes for the City that are in the Derby Plan 2011-2026;
- A thriving sustainable economy.
 - Achieving their learning potential.
 - Good health and well-being.
 - Being safe and feeling safe.
 - A strong community.
 - An active cultural life.
- 4.5 The aim of this strategy is to communicate how the priorities for the City apply to looked after children, and those leaving care. There are three key priorities, which link to the commitments made with partners in both the Children and Young People's Plan and in the Derby Plan.
- Raising education achievement and attainment.
 - Improved health and well-being.
 - Promoting safeguarding and reducing vulnerability.

4.6 Within the strategy there are further areas that will be developed. These areas have direct linkages with the operational work of the Specialist Services Directorate and cut-across the work of all Directorates, in promoting:

- Engagement and influence of children and young people
- Adopted children
- Integrated placements and placement stability

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 To continue without the existence of a strategy to inform service delivery and promote corporate parenting.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable Mark Barratt, Service Director, Specialist Services, Children & Young Peoples Department Not Applicable
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Mark Barratt 01332642669 mark.barratt@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Looked After and Adopted Children and Young People Strategy 2012 – 2015

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The span of the strategy, activity and focus operationally is covered in the structures of the statutory services provided for Looked after and adopted children and young people. The strategy connects with other strategies across the City, encompassing the Derby Winners Strategy; the Health and Well-Being Board; and the Children and Families Learners Board. As part of the Improvement Plan of this strategy the Local Authority will through its participation and engagement strategy with young people continue to support this area of work financially. As a means to develop and implement service redesigns and improvements.

Legal

- 2.1 None

Personnel

- 3.1 None

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None

Risk Management

- 8.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 Derby City Council will work with partners; elected members across the City to deliver a series of key outcomes within the strategy. To:

- Keep children and young people safe;
- Raise educational attainment;
- Improve children's health and well-being;
- Narrowing the gap.