

## Notice of a public meeting of

### Corporate Parenting Board

- To:** Councillors Funnell, Looker (Chair), Potter, Scott, Wiseman, Brooks, Cuthbertson and Runciman (Vice-Chair)
- Date:** Thursday, 7 March 2013
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** The Guildhall, York

### AGENDA

#### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

#### 2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 December 2013.

#### 3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Board's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is 5pm the working day before the meeting, in this case **5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2013.**

**4. Care Leavers Charter** (Pages 7 - 12)

In October 2012, the Department for Education published the Charter for Care Leavers. It produced the Charter in association with care leavers, charities and Local Authorities. Local Authorities are expected to undertake a commitment to working upon the Charter to achieve the best outcomes for young people leaving care.

**5. Independent Reviewing Officer Role**

Independent Reviewing Officers undertake a critical role in their oversight of care planning and chairing reviews for all looked after children. Some Independent Reviewing Officers will attend the meeting to discuss the role and the challenges of the responsibilities vested in them.

**6. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officers

Name: Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job-share)

Contact Details:

Telephone: (01904) 551031

Email: [catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk) and [louise.cook@york.gov.uk](mailto:louise.cook@york.gov.uk)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting.

- Registering to speak
- Written Representations
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

## About City of York Council Meetings

### Would you like to speak at this meeting?

If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

**A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088**

### Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

### Access Arrangements

We will make every effort to make the meeting accessible to you. The meeting will usually be held in a wheelchair accessible venue with an induction hearing loop. We can provide the agenda or reports in large print, electronically (computer disk or by email), in Braille or on audio tape. Some formats will take longer than others so please give as much notice as possible (at least 48 hours for Braille or audio tape).

If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an

interpreter providing sufficient advance notice is given. Telephone York (01904) 551550 for this service.

যদি যথেষ্ট আগে থেকে জানানো হয় তাহলে অন্য কোন ভাষাতে তথ্য জানানোর জন্য সব ধরনের চেষ্টা করা হবে, এর জন্য দরকার হলে তথ্য অনুবাদ করে দেয়া হবে অথবা একজন দোভাষী সরবরাহ করা হবে। টেলিফোন নম্বর (01904) 551 550।

*Yeteri kadar önceden haber verilmesi koşuluyla, bilgilerin terümesini hazırlatmak ya da bir tercüman bulmak için mümkün olan herşey yapılacaktır. Tel: (01904) 551 550*

我們竭力使提供的資訊備有不同語言版本，在有充足時間提前通知的情況下會安排筆譯或口譯服務。電話 (01904) 551 550。

اگر مناسب وقت سے اطلاع دی جاتی ہے تو ہم معلومات کا ترجمہ میا کرنے کی پوری کوشش کریں گے۔ ٹیلی فون (01904) 551 550

*Informacja może być dostępna w tłumaczeniu, jeśli dostaniemy zapotrzebowanie z wystarczającym wyprzedzeniem. Tel: (01904) 551 550*

### **Holding the Cabinet to Account**

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Cabinet (39 out of 47). Any 3 non-Cabinet councillors can 'call-in' an item of business following a Cabinet meeting or publication of a Cabinet Member decision. A specially convened Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Cabinet meeting, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

### **Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?**

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- York Explore Library and the Press receive copies of **all** public agenda/reports;
- All public agenda/reports can also be accessed online at other public libraries using this link

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

---

MEETING	CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
DATE	3 DECEMBER 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS LOOKER (CHAIR), BROOKS, FUNNELL, POTTER, RUNCIMAN (VICE-CHAIR), SCOTT AND WISEMAN
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS CUTHBERTSON

---

### 13. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

At this point in the meeting Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they might have in relation to the business on the agenda or other general interests they might have within the remit of the Board. None were declared.

### 14. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 1 October 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 15. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

### 16. **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S STRATEGY - THE HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Members consider a report that informed them of the Looked After Children's Strategy for the Health of Looked After Children.

Sue Roughton, a designated nurse for safeguarding children and Dr Barbara Stewart, a designated Paediatrician at York Hospital for Looked After Children were in attendance to update the Committee on the work they had achieved since they combined roles in January 2012.

They were pleased to announce that the percentage of Initial Health Assessments for Looked After Children had increased and were being taken within the statutory timescales. Although this was a good result officers would still be working with colleagues in Children's Social Care to further increase this and would continue quality audits to ensure that this high standard would be maintained.

The designated doctor stated that one of the most recent developments had been to children who were medically examined due to concerns about abuse or neglect. The opportunity was taken to include information that would inform a Looked After Children Initial Health Assessment, avoiding two health assessments needed to be undertaken on the same child. Officers felt these changes were effectively improving the system.

Dr Stewart stated they were actively working on lots of initiatives to encourage more children and young people to take part in their Health Assessments and had attended the Show Me That I Matter Panel to consult with young people in relation to their experience of health provision while in care.

It was explained to Members that better arrangements had been put in place for the provision of health care to Care Leavers who were no longer at school. All Care Leavers were offered a "Health Passport". This provided them with the sort of information that was generally held by parents of non-Care Leavers which was needed for further education and job applications as well as to enable the young person to continue to effectively address any health needs that they had. Members felt this was a positive concept.

Members thanked officers for their update and for the work they had done. They looked forward to receiving another update at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the progress that had been made in relation to plans to meet with health needs of Looked After Children and young people to ensure that all those involved with children and young people were collaborating to consolidate the arrangements for children's health provision and to improve in accordance with the strategy be noted.

REASON: So that the Board was kept up to date with progress that was being made in the health provision for Looked After Children.

**17. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S STRATEGY - RESPECT AND INVOLVEMENT**

Members considered a report that informed them of the expected outcomes for Looked After Children and young people in relation to respect for them and their involvement in service planning and development.

Officers informed the Board that they were actively involved in two children and young people groups, Show me that I Matter (SMTIM) aimed at children aged 11 and over and I Matter Too (IMT) aimed at young people aged 8-11. Officers showed Members a DVD that had recently been produced by the IMT group. The DVD was aimed at children who were new to the care system and explained everything they would need to know in a child friendly approach.

In answer to Members questions officers confirmed that:

- The DVD was available to view on You Tube, Facebook and the YorOk website.
- Every young person new to the care system would be sent a copy.
- The DVD had not been distributed to any young people yet because the accompany handbook was still in print.
- Officers would monitor the effectiveness of the DVD by consulting with children who had seen it and listening and acting on their feedback to improve it.

Officers confirmed they stay in regular contact with all Looked After Children and as part of an ongoing consultation to widen participation had:

- set up a Facebook page for the over 13's to join if they wished.
- regularly visited Wenlock and The Glen.
- developed a children and young people's website that would be targeted at foster carers and children in care.

- worked with the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) to encourage children and young people to chair and/or evaluate their reviews.

Some Members questioned why childcare reviews were sometimes held in the child's school as they had received feedback that some children do not like to hold them there. Officers confirmed that this was an evolving process and the place of the reviews was decided on an individual basis and if a child had stated for it not to be held in a certain venue this would be acknowledged by the IRO. The IRO's were actively working to improve participation in reviews and would ensure that children and young people felt that their involvement in their reviews had made a difference.

Members thanked officers for the work they do and had achieved and agreed that an Independent Reviewing Officer should be invited to attend a future meeting.<sup>1</sup>

RESOLVED: (i) That the update be noted.  
(ii) That an Independent Reviewing Officer be invited to attend a future meeting.

REASON: To continue the work of the Committee.

Action Required

Invite an IRO to a future CPB meeting

HL

Cllr Looker, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.55 pm].





---

**Corporate Parenting Board****7 March 2013**

Report of the Assistant Director of Children's Specialist Services

**Care Leavers Charter****Summary**

1. In October 2012, the Department for Education published the Charter for Care Leavers. It produced the Charter in association with care leavers, charities and Local Authorities. Local Authorities are expected to undertake a commitment to working upon the Charter to achieve the best outcomes for young people leaving care.

**Background**

2. It is envisaged that all Local Authorities will commit to the principles of the Care Leavers Charter. The Corporate Parenting Board is best placed to consider the Charter and the implications of endorsement by the Cabinet Member and the Director of Adults, Children and Education.

**Consultation**

3. If the Corporate Parenting Board considers that the Charter should be signed for the Council, consultation could be undertaken with looked after children at the Show Me That I Matter (Children in Care council) to ensure that any local considerations are also included in the Charter recommended by the Department for Education.

**Options**

4. Option 1: It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Board agrees to the commitment to the Charter subject to any proposals made in local consultation with looked after young people and care leavers in York

5. Option 2: It is proposed that a local Charter is developed to reflect the local considerations which are not fully catered for in the national charter

### **Analysis**

6. Consideration of the above options will best be informed by advice from the managers in the care leaving service, who have direct involvement in national benchmarking forums, in which all local authorities are represented. The managers will attend the Corporate Parenting Board to share their knowledge from the national discussions.

### **7. Council Plan**

The Corporate Parenting Board will be ensuring that the work of partners for looked after children contributes to the aims of

- The Children and Young People's Plan.
- Building strong communities.
- Protecting vulnerable people.

Through the positive outcomes for looked after children, the aim is for them to be able to benefit from and contribute to

- Get York moving.
- Create jobs and grow the economy.
- Protect the environment.

### **8. Implications**

- **Financial** *Not applicable*
- **Human Resources (HR)** *Not applicable*
- **Equalities** *Not applicable*
- **Legal** *Not applicable*
- **Crime and Disorder** *Not applicable*
- **Information Technology (IT)** *Not applicable*
- **Property** *Not applicable*

- **Other** *None*

**Recommendations**

9. This report recommends that the Corporate Parenting Board agrees to the endorsement of the Care Leavers Charter by the Cabinet Member and the Director of Children's Services subject to local consultation with looked after young people and care leavers in York.

Reason: The Council's commitment to achieve the positive outcomes for care leavers is in line with its corporate responsibilities outlined in the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

**Howard Lovelady**  
Head of Service  
Children's Social Care

**Dept Name**  
Tel No. 555357

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

**Eoin Rush**  
**Assistant Director**  
Children's Specialist Services  
Adult, Children and Education

**Report Approved**  **Date** 26 Feb 2013

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all* All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

Care Leavers Charter, Department of Education

This page is intentionally left blank



Department  
for Education



# Charter for Care Leavers

A Charter is a set of principles and promises. This Charter sets out promises care leavers want the Central and Local Government to make. Promises and Principles help in decision making and do not replace laws; they give guidance to show how laws are designed to be interpreted.

The key principles in this Charter will remain constant through any changes in Legislation, Regulation and Guidance. Care leavers urge Local Authorities to use these principles when they make decisions about young people's lives. The Charter for Care Leavers is designed to raise expectation, aspiration and understanding of what care leavers need and what Government and Local Authorities should do to be good Corporate Parents.

## We Promise:

### To respect and honour your identity

- We will support you to discover and to be who you are and honour your unique identity. We will help you develop your own personal beliefs and values and accept your culture and heritage. We will celebrate your identity as an individual, as a member of identity groups and as a valued member of your community. We will value and support important relationships, and help you manage changing relationships or come to terms with loss, trauma or other significant life events. We will support you to express your identity positively to others.

### To believe in you

- We will value your strengths, gifts and talents and encourage your aspirations. We will hold a belief in your potential and a vision for your future even if you have lost sight of these yourself. We will help you push aside limiting barriers and encourage and support you to pursue your goals in whatever ways we can. We will believe in you, celebrate you and affirm you.

### To listen to you

- We will take time to listen to you, respect, and strive to understand your point of view. We will place your needs, thoughts and feelings at the heart of all decisions about you, negotiate with you, and show how we have taken these into account. If we don't agree with you we will fully explain why. We will provide easy access to complaint and appeals processes and promote and encourage access to independent advocacy whenever you need it.

### To inform you

- We will give you information that you need at every point in your journey, from care to adulthood, presented in a way that you want including information on legal entitlements and the service you can expect to receive from us at different stages in the journey. We will keep information up to date and accurate. We will ensure you know where to get current information once you are no longer in regular touch with leaving care services. We will make it clear to you what information about yourself and your time in care you are entitled to see. We will support you to access this when you want it, to manage any feelings that you might have about the information, and to put on record any disagreement with factual content.

### To support you

- We will provide any support set out in current Regulations and Guidance and will not unreasonably withhold advice when you are no longer legally entitled to this service. As well as information, advice, practical and financial help we will provide emotional support. We will make sure you do not have to fight for support you are entitled to and we will fight for you if other agencies let you down. We will not punish you if you change your mind about what you want to do. We will continue to care about you even when we are no longer caring for you. We will make it our responsibility to understand your needs. If we can't meet those needs we will try and help you find a service that can. We will help you learn from your mistakes; we will not judge you and we will be here for you no matter how many times you come back for support.

### To find you a home

- We will work alongside you to prepare you for your move into independent living only when you are ready. We will help you think about the choices available and to find accommodation that is right for you. We will do everything we can to ensure you are happy and feel safe when you move to independent living. We recognise that at different times you may need to take a step back and start over again. We will do our best to support you until you are settled in your independent life; we will not judge you for your mistakes or refuse to advise you because you did not listen to us before. We will work proactively with other agencies to help you sustain your home.

### To be a lifelong champion

- We will do our best to help you break down barriers encountered dealing with other agencies. We will work together with the services you need, including housing, benefits, colleges & universities, employment providers and health services to help you establish yourself as an independent individual. We will treat you with courtesy and humanity whatever your age when you return to us for advice or support. We will help you to be the driver of your life and not the passenger. We will point you in a positive direction and journey alongside you at your pace. We will trust and respect you. We will not forget about you. We will remain your supporters in whatever way we can, even when our formal relationship with you has ended.