

**Notice of a public meeting of
Corporate Parenting Board**

To: Councillors Looker (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair),
Brooks, Cuthbertson, Funnell, Potter, Scott and
Wiseman

Date: Thursday, 3 October 2013

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The Severus Room - 1st Floor West Offices (F032)

A G E N D A

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 Thursday 4 July 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 2 October 2013.

- 4. The Health of Looked After Children** (Pages 7 - 16)
This report describes the action planning, which is being undertaken to achieve the stated outcome for York's Looked After Children.
- 5. Care Leavers Charter** (Pages 17 - 24)
This report asks the Corporate Parenting Board to agree to the endorsement of the Care Leavers Charter by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Children's Services following the conclusion of the local consultation with looked after young people and care leavers in York.
- 6. Work Plan** (Pages 25 - 26)
Members are asked to consider the Board's workplan for the 2013-14 municipal year
- 7. Any Other 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 and louise.cook@york.gov.uk

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

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

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Scrutiny Committees

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

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Corporate Parenting Board
Date	4 July 2013
Present	Councillors Looker (Chair), Potter, Scott and Wiseman
Apologies	Councillors Runciman, Brooks, Cuthbertson and Funnell

1. **Declarations Of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests 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.

2. **Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 2 May 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. **Public Participation**

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

4. **Update To Work Plan For 2013-14**

It was agreed that a representative from the York Area Foster Carers Association should be invited to the next meeting of the Board on 3 October as this would coincide with discussion on the Health of Looked After Children.

Officers suggested that it would be beneficial for the Board to examine and provide an input into the strategy and process for reducing the number of Looked After Children in the city. It was agreed that, at the next meeting, officers would provide a report on the profile of Looked After Children in the city and the

proactive steps being taken to reduce numbers. Board Members asked that they received a twice yearly update on this issue.

Board Members were advised that a review of the current multi agency strategic partnership planning arrangements was underway. Officers advised that they would provide an update to the Board at the meeting in December 2013 or March 2014.

Resolved: That the above changes be made to the work plan agreed by the Board at the last meeting.

Reason: To ensure the Council's commitment to undertake its role as a responsible Corporate Parent in line with the desired outcomes in the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15.

5. Good And Safe Placements For Looked After Children - A Progress Report On Fostering And Adoption Activity And Outcomes In York

Members considered a report which updated the Board on York's progress through the delivery of its fostering and adoption services, in delivering good and safe placements to children who require alternative care.

The Adoption Service Manager and Fostering Service Manager were in attendance at the meeting and they presented the annual report on the Adoption Service in York for the period April 2012 to March 2013 and the Fostering Service 3 Monthly Report for Executive and Senior Management Team for the period 1 January to 31 March 2013 to the Board. They responded to queries from Members on particular issues covered by both reports.

Members noted that York's Pledge for Looked After Children and Young People was currently being reviewed and officers agreed that the Board's input in the refresh of the pledge would be of benefit.

Resolved: That the reports on the adoption and fostering services be noted.

Reason: To develop the Board's knowledge and experience of Looked after Children.

6. Children In Out Of Authority Residential Care - Quality And Surveillance

Members received a verbal update on the quality and surveillance of children in out of authority residential care.

The Assistant Director informed the Board that a Freedom of Information (FOI) request had been sent to all local authorities to find out where looked after children were placed when not placed within the local authority. York had completed and returned the proforma showing that all children were placed in at least adequate provision when in fact they were all placed in good or outstanding provision. Unfortunately this interpretation of the FOI request led a Panorama programme to portray York as performing poorly.

Officers also explained that that if someone was placed in a good/outstanding placement, it was not unusual for provision to be reassessed and downgraded. This would not necessarily necessitate moving the child out of the placement unless there was an issue of safety/safeguarding but it may lead to a decision to undertake increased surveillance.

Officers explained that although the actual monitoring was carried out by Ofsted, the local authority did undertake visits to the child/young person. Members expressed the view that there ought to be some mechanism, other than an Ofsted inspection, to ensure the accommodation was up to standard. Officers confirmed that they were responsible for monitoring provision and that reporting arrangements were in place with individual agencies.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Reason: In order that the Board is kept informed about the quality and surveillance of children in out of authority residential care

Councillor Looker, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.40 pm].

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Corporate Parenting Board**3 October 2013**

Report of the Assistant Director of Adults Children and Education

Looked After Children's Strategy**The Health of Looked After Children****Summary**

1. A crucial aspect of caring for looked after children and young people is to ensure that they have good, prompt and effective attention to their general health. The Strategy committed to achieving the following outcome:

“The health needs of children and young people are assessed and planned for, and they have appropriate access to all the health services they require. They are well and happy, and choosing healthy and active lifestyles”

Background

2. To underpin this commitment the Council and its partners have pledged:
 - We will support you to lead a healthy and happy life.

Consultation

3. Dr Barbara Stewart, designated doctor and Sue Roughton, designated nurse are attending the Board today to describe the work underway to deliver the changes described above and to report on progress.

Council Plan

4. 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

5. 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

6. Members are asked to consider the progress that has being made in relation to plans to meet the health needs of looked after children and young people

Reason: To ensure that all those involved with children and young are collaborating to consolidate the arrangements for children's health provision and to improve in accordance with the strategy.

Contact Details

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Co-Author's Name Eoin Rush
Title Assistant Director
Dept Name Adult Children and Education
Tel No. Ext 4212 Date 23
Report September
Approved 2013

Wards Affected: All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Additional reports

Appendix A
Progress report from Dr Barbara Stewart, Designated Doctor for
Looked After Children and Sue Roughton, Designated Nurse for Looked
After Children

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Health Services for Looked after Children:

Update for City of York Council Corporate Parenting Group on promoting the health and well-being of looked after children

Report : Barbara Stewart, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children

Sue Roughton, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children

1. Background

1.1. This report does not include emotional health issues as these will be reported separately by lead professional from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

1.2. The Designated Nurses have been operational since January 2012 in their posts with designated responsibilities for Looked After Children within the broader portfolio of children's safeguarding.

1.3. Dr Natalie Lyth and Dr Barbara Stewart were appointed a locum Designated Doctors for Looked After Children and took up post from 1st December 2012. These have now been appointed to substantive posts as Designated Doctors for Safeguarding Children, including the Designated responsibilities for Looked After Children within the broader portfolio of children's safeguarding. Dr Barbara Stewart took on Vale of York responsibilities from 12th August 2013 and the Designated Doctor work for the other Clinical Commissioning Groups will begin from October 2013.

1.4 There has been regular and active involvement of health services with the City of York Strategic Partnership for Looked after Children. There is a commitment to continued multi-agency working within the new Multi-agency Strategic Partnership Arrangements for Looked after Children including the Executive Group, work streams and projects with focus on improving outcomes for Looked after Children.

1.5 We continue to work collaboratively with social care to improve access and timeliness of Initial Health Assessments for children and young people. The expected standard is for all children and young people to be seen within 20 working days of becoming Looked After.

An audit of new care entrants (City of York) for May to July 2013, showed that the interval from **referral** to Initial Health Assessment for the six children and young people seen ranged from 4 to 17 days (4, 4, 4, 5, 13 and 17 days). However, the intervals from being Looked After to Initial Health Assessment are outside the 20 days and the total time ranged from 22 to 97 days (22, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 97 days).

One additional child had a child protection medical and an Initial Health Assessment will be completed without an additional face to face meeting with the child and family. The consents and additional information had not been sent. This has now been requested from the Social Worker.

3 children/ young people were only briefly looked after (overnight to 9 days), and IHAs were not requested. 4 children/ young people continue to be Looked After and have not yet had Initial Health Assessments.

In conclusion, there is evidence of timely completion of IHAs once a referral for the assessment has been made by the Social Worker, but there are significant delays in referral and poor coverage 7/11 (63.6%).

A meeting is planned with Service Managers to discuss the audit and find solutions, discuss escalation if referral not received and alternative pathways for young people who refuse Health Assessments.

1.6. A visit by Sue Roughton and Barbara Stewart to the Show Me that I Matter Panel demonstrated that Looked After young people had good understanding of the need for and purpose of Initial Health Assessments, and in general valued this opportunity to assess & review their health needs. It is of note that the young people were unhappy that Review Health Assessments are only available to

children & young people in mainstream (LA provided) education. This is an issue that the CCG has raised with the School Nursing service provider (City of York Council) within the review of the service specification.

1.7. Work continues on the development of a protocol/ pathway for children with complex needs who are Looked After. This is joint work with North Yorkshire. There is agreement that we will use the same pathway/ protocol across both York & North Yorkshire as a large number of children move between the two localities. There is also agreement that wherever possible we will utilise the expertise of a child's own Paediatrician to complete Initial Health Assessments and contribute to planning and transitions.

1.8. The Specialist Nursing Team for Looked After Children (Harrogate District Foundation Trust) are managing the delivery of Health Assessments & meeting of health needs for out of area placements, and now quality assure any Health Assessments completed in a different authority area. A new national 'Payment by Results' tariff has been developed and we are looking at innovative ways to ensure that any increase in funding is transferred to service delivery.

1.9. Central guidance has clarified that young people who are on remand and are thus Looked After because of this, require input from social care but this group of young people do not require Initial Health Assessments.

1.10. A national health passport for Care Leavers has not yet been completed, but we are assured that this is in development by BAAF. Once developed we will look to using this for all Care Leavers within City of York.

1.11. Review Health Assessments (RHAs) continue to be completed by Health Visitors and School Nurses (employed by York Hospital). The school nursing services are now commissioned by City of York Council, who will also commission Health Visiting services from April 2015. As mentioned above, City of York Council are aware of the gap in provision of RHAs for those children of school age who are not in LA educational placements.

1.12 Dental audit: Carried out on York children who were either Looked After or subjects of a Child Protection Plan to determine whether this group of children had accessed dental care within the previous 6 months, & to establish the prevalence of toothache amongst this group. Results showed that the majority of LAC (86%) had seen a dentist within the previous 6 months, and only one young person had experienced toothache within that period.

2. Consultation

2.1 Further discussions have been completed requesting that the LAC Specialist Nursing Team have limited access to the Children's Social Care Integrated Children's System. It has been achieved in North Yorkshire with positive benefits including available of immunisation date and swift and effective communication.

2.2. There are continuing gaps in provision for care leavers and for some 16-18 year olds who need review health assessments but do not have access to school nursing service. There are on going discussions with commissioners and providers. The gap has been recorded on the commissioners risk register.

3. Analysis

There are areas of strengths and weaknesses. There is a commitment to meeting the challenging timescales for Initial Health Assessments but this will require further re-design and collaborative work across social care and health. There are continuing gaps in services.

4. Risk Management

The areas that we are not meeting national standards are on the Clinical Commissioning Group risk registers.

5. Recommendations

It is noted that

There have been developments in the past 9 months;
the development of partial access to ICS by the Specialist Nursing
Team for LAC would benefit the interface between health colleagues
and Children's Social Care;

Social Care Social Workers can contribute to improving the timeliness
of referrals for Initial Health Assessments (with consent & other
essential paperwork completed.)

Dr. B. Stewart, Doctor for Safeguarding Children

S. Roughton, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children

17 September 2013

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Corporate Parenting Board**3 October 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. The Corporate Parenting Board considered the proposed charter in March 2013 and asked for local consultation to be undertaken with York's looked after young people and care leavers. 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 for Education, Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Adults, Children's and Education. The York charter has been developed in consultation with local young people.

Consultation

- 3 Consultation has been undertaken with looked after children at the Show Me That I Matter (Children in Care council) and with care leavers working with the Pathway Team. This will ensure that any local considerations are also included in the charter recommended by the Department for Education. The feedback from local young people was that they would prefer a briefer commitment, which could be summarised in bullet points and it would be no longer than 1 page.

Options

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

Analysis

5. Consideration of the above options has been informed by advice from the manager in the care leaving service, who has engaged in direct involvement with York's young people and care leavers as well as the national benchmarking forums, in which all local authorities are represented. The manager will attend the Corporate Parenting Board to share his knowledge from the local and national discussions.

6. 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

7. 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

8. This report recommends that the Corporate Parenting Board agrees to the endorsement of the Care Leavers Charter by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Children's Services following the conclusion of the 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
X5357

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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

**Report
Approved**

Date 23.9.13

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

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For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Appendix A
York's Care Leavers Charter (final draft)

Appendix B
National Care Leavers Charter, Department of Education

Care Leavers Charter

CYC have signed up to the Charter as produced by the Care Leavers Foundation and distributed by the Department for Education.

- Care leavers in York & Show me I matter comment that the charter, is over wordy, not written in words they understand, confusing and not realistic in its statements and promises.
- They would like a charter that speaks to them for them and has bullet points.
- They have made the following suggestions

The City of York promises:

- ❖ To respect and believe in you, support you in your beliefs and accept your culture
- ❖ To value your strengths and encourage your goals
- ❖ To take time to listen to you, respect your point of view and put your needs, thoughts and feelings at the heart of all decisions about you. If our opinion is different to yours we will fully explain why, and try to negotiate a compromise.
- ❖ To give you information you may need to support you in your journey to adulthood.
- ❖ To support you with the choices you make; we will support you and not judge you if you change your mind.
- ❖ To give you advice, information, practical and financial help and to provide emotional support.
- ❖ To prepare you for your move to independent living, but only when you are ready. To do all we can to help you feel safe and happy to help you settle into independent life.
- ❖ To help you break down barriers you face when dealing with other agencies. We will work with other agencies such as housing, benefits, colleges, universities, employment providers and health services to offer you the support you may need.
- ❖ To provide you with a named Pathway worker to age 21 or 25 if in education.
- ❖ To offer you advice and information whatever your age.
- ❖ To keep care leavers up to date about any future changes in the charter's promises

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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.

Corporate Parenting Board – Work Programme for 2013-14

Meeting Date	Work Programme
4 July 2013	Good and Safe Placements for Looked After Children – including annual adoption report and quarterly fostering report Children in Out of Authority Residential Care - Quality and Surveillance
3 October 2013	Health of Looked After Children Attendance by a representative from the York Area Foster Carers Association Moving into Adulthood, including Care Leavers Charter Profile of Looked After Children in York
5 Dec 2013	Respect and Involvement, including a report from the Children's Rights Officer Education, with a report from the head teacher of the virtual school of Looked After Children. (Virtual Head Teacher for Looked after Children be invited to attend the meeting)
6 March 2014	The emotional well being of looked after children (slot in dependent on when it comes through scrutiny) Maintaining and promoting important relationships for looked after children
1 May 2014	Respect and involvement including the annual report of the independent reviewing officer service Promoting a positive sense of identity for all children.

Other issues to be timetabled into work programme (requested by Members/suggested by officers during meetings)

- Update from Service Manager and the elected Member with responsibility for visiting children's homes.
- Feedback from the Glen in the wider context of short breaks.

- Profile of Looked after Children in the City – twice yearly update requested.
- Update on Strategic Partnership Arrangements – either 5 Dec 2013 or 6 March 2014