

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

- To:** Councillors Looker (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair), Brooks, Cuthbertson, Fitzpatrick, Funnell, Gunnell and Wiseman
- Date:** Monday, 24 November 2014
- Time:** 5.00 pm
- Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

**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 1 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2014.

**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 Friday 21 November 2014.

**Filming or Recording Meetings**

Residents are welcome to photograph, film or record Councillors and Officers at all meetings open to the press and public. This includes the use of social media reporting, i.e. tweeting. Anyone

wishing to film, record or take photos at any public meeting should contact the Democracy Officer (whose contact details are at the foot of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.

The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at [http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/3130/protocol\\_for\\_webcasting\\_filming\\_and\\_recording\\_of\\_council\\_meetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/3130/protocol_for_webcasting_filming_and_recording_of_council_meetings)

- 4. York's Guarantee to Looked After Children** (Pages 7 - 10)  
This report focuses on the work of the Show Me That I Matter Panel, children in care council, who have recently completed the development of a refreshed request for a guarantee about the standard of services for children, young people and care leavers from elected members, social workers, council staff, and partners.
- 5. Corporate Parenting: Taking It To The Next Level** (Pages 11 - 16)  
The report informs Members on the participation work undertaken by looked after young people, care leavers and Corporate Parents at recent regional events to reflect upon the progress of York's services for looked after children and care leavers.
- 6. Work Plan for 2014-15** (Pages 17 - 18)  
To consider the Board's work plan for the current municipal year.
- 7. 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)

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 **(01904) 551550**

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Corporate Parenting Board
Date	22 September 2014
Present	Councillors Looker (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair), Brooks, Cuthbertson and Fitzpatrick
Apologies	Councillors Funnell, Gunnell and Wiseman

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## 7. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in relation to the business on the agenda or other general interests they might have had within the remit of the Board. None were declared.

## 8. **Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 30 June 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 9. **Public Participation**

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

## 10. **Education of Looked After Children**

### (i) Education of Looked After Children

Members considered a report that focused on the progress in relation to the education of looked after children.

The Virtual School Assistant Headteacher was in attendance at the meeting and went through the key issues in the report including:

- The number of students in the Virtual School

- Staffing arrangements and areas of responsibility
- The national context
- Pupil Premiums and how these were being utilised
- Personal Education Plans, including completion rates and the re-writing of the PEP document to meet the new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice
- Attendance monitoring and the work that was taking place to put systematic processes in place to collect attendance information, including investigating an Integris data storage system. It was noted that the link teacher had a role to play in ensuring that the Virtual School was aware of any attendance issues. It was also important that foster carers and social workers were aware of the best point of contact regarding such matters.
- York Looked After Children outcomes. It was noted that these statistics fluctuated year on year due to the small cohort size and pupil contextual factors. There was a focus on reading as this was a tool to also access other subjects.
- The tracking arrangements that were in place to monitor progress, including visits to schools and other placements

Members were pleased to hear of the achievements of GCSE students in the face of some very challenging circumstances. Both the Chief Executive and the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills had written to the GCSE cohort to congratulate them on the results and to seek feedback on their school experiences.

Members gave consideration to the Virtual School Improvement Plan 2014/15. Officers gave details of the key priorities, as outlined in the plan.

(ii) Child Sexual Exploitation

Officers were asked if the Authority was aware if any Looked After Children had been sexually exploited and if the Authority was satisfied that appropriate systems were in place to address this issue.

Officers stated that York's focus on Child Sexual Exploitation from children social care and the police long predated the publication and publicity from Professor's Jay's recent report. It

was noted that there were features that set York apart from the factors that prevailed in Rotherham, but notwithstanding the differences in York, there was absolutely no complacency:

- The level of elected member interest and scrutiny remained very high and constant
- The local strategy had three key streams
  - i) Robust arrangements to ensure that awareness, identification and intervention into concerns about child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse were in place across all agencies but particularly in the working arrangements between children social care and the police
  - ii) Utilising core and established child safeguarding arrangement including referrals to and between Children's Social Care and the police
  - iii) Building and refining the offer made to children and young people who may be at risk of child sexual exploitation locally
- The Local Authority was committed to ensuring that young people who were identified as vulnerable had a fast and open track to knowledgeable, skilled and trusted professionals, both day time and out of office hours
- The manager and staff of Wenlock Terrace children's home were fully trained in the issues of child sexual exploitation, they adhered to their own agency procedures and also to the local multi agency safeguarding guidelines from the Safeguarding Board. They maintained very good working links with the community support officers from the police, who were regular visitors to the home as friends of the residents. The Local Authority was confident that Wenlock Terrace children's home was not affected by child sexual exploitation. There was however no complacency and the ongoing dialogue would be maintained to ensure that any emergence of concern was identified and addressed.

Officers stated that the Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services had requested that the Corporate Parenting Board be made aware that the Local Authority was confident that current and emerging arrangements would address the issue of child

sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse as its awareness and its incidence occurred.

There had been a briefing to Council Management team and to Cabinet Members. The issue had also been discussed at the recent meeting, which included the independent chair of the York Safeguarding Children's Board.

The Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services had stated that he would be pleased to attend a future meeting to brief Members further. It was noted that the child sexual exploitation would be a major topic of consideration for the York Safeguarding Children Board. This issue had also been discussed at a scrutiny meeting and by the Gambling, Licensing and Regulatory Committee. A statement on this issue was also due to be given at the next Full Council meeting.

(iii) Accommodation for care leavers 16 to 21

A paper was tabled which detailed the accommodation arrangements for care leavers aged 16 to 21. At the request of Members, officers explained the arrangements that were made for university students outside of term time.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To ensure that all those involved with children and young people are collaborating to consolidate the arrangements for children's education and welfare.

## 11. **Corporate Parenting Events**

Details were circulated of the corporate parenting events that were planned to take place during Autumn 2014, both regionally and nationally.

Resolved: That further details of the events, including the timings, be circulated to Members who would email their availability to attend.

Reason: To ensure appropriate representation at the events.



**12. Work Plan for 2014-15**

Consideration was given to the Board's work plan for the 2014-15 municipal year.

Resolved: That the work plan be approved subject to the following amendments:

- Remove "update from Service Manager and the Elected Members with responsibility for visiting children's homes" from the meeting scheduled for 2 February 2015 as this matter would be considered at the November meeting.
- Include on item on "Child Sexual Exploitation" on the agenda for the meeting on 24 November 2014.
- Agenda item on "Health of Looked After Children" to be included on the agenda for the meeting on 2 February 2015 rather than 24 November 2014.

Reason: To ensure that the Board has a planned programme of work in place.

Councillor Looker, Chair  
[the meeting started at 5.10 pm and finished at 6.55 pm].

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**Corporate Parenting Board****24 November 2014**

Report of the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills

**York's Guarantee to Looked After Children****Summary**

1. The focus in this report is upon the work of the Show Me That I Matter Panel, children in care council. The Panel has recently completed the development of a refreshed request for a guarantee about the standard of services for children, young people and care leavers from elected members, social workers, council staff, and its partners.

**Background**

2. In 2010 the lead member for children's services and the director for children's services endorsed a commitment to The Pledge To Looked After Children in York. This detailed commitment made 12 undertakings about the standard of work that should be expected from social workers, foster carers and the children's workforce.

In 2014, the Show Me That I Matter Panel has reviewed the experience of looked after children and young people and it has presented a refreshed, more concise version of the key issues, about which young people want clarity.

**Consultation**

3. Feedback from Show Me That I Matter and I Matter Too (representatives of all looked after children) York Area Foster Carers Association, is regularly sought and incorporated into the service development.

## **Options**

4. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to progress information sharing with the Board about the experience of looked after children.

## **Analysis**

5. The Show Me that I Matter Panel is York's children in care council. The seven young people meet monthly with two elected members from the Corporate Parenting Board. The meetings are facilitated by the Children's Rights and Advocacy Service.
6. During each year, the young people of the Panel invite a range of officers, who can advise them about the services provided for looked after children. They have met with the Chief Executive, the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills, the designated doctor and nurse for looked after children, the Headteacher of the virtual school for looked after children. Service managers in children's social care have also attended to offer information about key issues for the Panel.
7. In 2014, the Panel has focussed upon a refresh of the pledge undertaken by Corporate Parents (the lead member and the director) in 2010. The work made specific reference to the findings of the U Matter survey 2014, which reflected the broader views of all looked after children, who participated in the research.
8. The Panel decided that children and young people wanted a guarantee about a range of key areas, which could be summarised a single page. There are eight headings:
  - good placements
  - treated with respect
  - help you keep in touch
  - have fun together
  - help you in school
  - reliable social worker
  - an independent reviewing officer, who I know
  - support you until you are an adult

### **Council Plan**

9. 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
  
10. 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

### **Implications**

11. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, information technology or property implications arising from this report.

### **Risk Management**

12. Not applicable.

### **Recommendations**

13. It is recommended that the Board notes the endorsement of York's Guarantee to Looked after Children by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People and the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills.

Reason: To ensure that all those involved with children and young people are collaborating to ensure that Corporate Parenting is central to all planning and operational work of elected members, staff and partners in accordance with the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Eoin Rush  
Assistant Director (Children's Specialist  
Services)  
Tel: 01904 554212

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 13-11-14

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** - Not applicable

**All**



**Wards Affected:**

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

**Background Papers:**

York's Pledge 2010 (available online only)

York's Guarantee to children and young people in care, 2014 (available online only)



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**Corporate Parenting Board****24 November 2014**

Report of the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills

**Corporate Parenting :Taking It To The Next Level****Summary**

1. The focus in this report is upon the participation work undertaken by looked after young people, care leavers and Corporate Parents at recent regional events to reflect upon the progress of York's services for looked after children and care leavers. This has been through attendance at events entitled Corporate parenting Taking It To The Next Level and A Passport to Parliament.

**Background**

2. Taking it to the Next Level is a two year Department for Education funded project, a partnership between the National Children's Bureau and A National Voice. Following a successful first year, further events will take across the country for Children in Care Councils members to attend with their Corporate Parents.
3. These events provide an exciting opportunity for Corporate Parents to work with young people directly and share ideas with other local authorities to strengthen the Children in Care Councils, explore how Corporate Parents and Children in Care Councils could work more effectively and raise the bar in terms of aspirations and actions to improve outcomes for children in care. The series of events will focus on three themes this year, a) improving placements b) health and wellbeing c) leaving care. Each event will have one main theme although there will be an opportunity to discuss challenges and achievements and to showcase what Children in Care Councils and corporate parents have been doing in other areas.

4. It was advised that participation should consist of: two Corporate Parents (Director of Children's Services / Cabinet Member /Senior Manager), one Children in Care Councils Worker, two Children in Care Councils representatives.
5. City of York prioritised participation at the following events:
  - 28 October, Manchester - Theme – Improving Placements
  - 8 November, Newcastle - Theme – Leaving Care
  - 6 December, Leeds - Theme – Health and Wellbeing
6. In addition The Who Cares Trust hosted a corporate parenting event entitled Passport to Parliament in York on 31 October 2014. This was attended by 15 local authorities from the north of England.

### **Consultation**

7. The work of each of the officers reporting to the board is undertaken with consultation with service users eg looked after children and care leavers foster carers, adopters. Feedback from Show Me That I Matter and I Matter Too (representatives of all looked after children) York Area Foster Carers Association, is regularly sought and incorporated into the service development.

### **Options**

8. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to progress information sharing with the Board about the experience of looked after children.

### **Analysis**

9. The National Children's Bureau and A National Voice brought together several local authorities for full day forums in which the views and experience of young people and care leavers could be discussed with the active participation of the corporate parents for the children and young people.
10. The Improving Placements event was attended by two young people, the fostering service manager and a children's council worker. It was an invaluable event in which the York delegation were able both to listen to the description of innovative practice from other local authorities , as well as describe the progress in



York with the major emphasis upon young people being placed with skilled, knowledgeable and caring foster carers.

11. York's delegation identified key areas for future action, which broadly related to the achievement of the guarantee to looked after children about good, kind foster carers, enabling young people to stay in touch with important people and supporting them into adulthood through Staying Put with foster carers after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
12. The Leaving Care event was attended by two young people, two elected members from the Corporate Parenting Board, a pathway support worker and the head of service for care leavers. Participation in the event enabled York's delegation to reflect on the strengths of York's services and offers to care leavers, to listen to innovative developments across local authorities in the north and to identify key areas for further consideration and action.
13. The identified key areas, which were most pertinent to care leavers related to gas, electricity and winter fuel costs; out of hours support for care leavers and the availability of computers and Wi-Fi.
14. Who Cares Trust, a national charity, which supports looked after children and care leavers, was keen to promote young people's awareness of 2013 Entitlements Inquiry report by the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, which found that many care-experienced young people do not know about their entitlements, and some children and young people aren't getting what they are entitled to.
15. The Passport to Parliament event hosted by the Who Cares Trust highlighted the wish for looked after young people and care leavers to be enabled to understand their rights and entitlements as young people at the varying stages of their experience of childhood through to early adulthood. York's participation included young people of varying ages, who are looked after or care leavers, four elected members from the Corporate Parenting Board, Mr Hugh Bayley, York Central MP and the Director of Children's Services. The promotion of young people's awareness of their rights and entitlements is core work of the Children's Rights and Advocacy Service, with a refreshed guidance being developed in various formats. The Pathway Team is also

developing a guide, which advises care leavers of their rights and entitlements about Staying Put and upon leaving care.

16. The Health and Well Being module of Taking It To The Next Level in Leeds is planned for Saturday 6 December 2014. There will be active participation in York from young people, Corporate Parents, and the Children's Rights Service.

### **Council Plan**

17. 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
18. 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

### **Implications**

19. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, information technology or property implications arising from this report.

### **Risk Management**

20. Not applicable.

### **Recommendations**

21. It is recommended that the Board notes the feedback and key actions from elected members, young people and officers in relation to the participation in the National Children's Bureau Taking It To The Next Level and The Passport to Parliament conferences.

Reason: To ensure that all those involved with children and young people are collaborating to ensure that Corporate Parenting is central to all planning and operational work of elected members, staff and partners in accordance with the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15.

**Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 13-11-14

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** - Not applicable

**All**



**Wards Affected:**

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

**Background Papers**

York's Guarantee to Looked After Children (available online only)

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**Corporate Parenting Board  
Work Programme for 2014-15**

Meeting Date	Work Programme
30 June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good and Safe placements - Reports regarding the adoption and fostering service</li> </ul>
22 Sept 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Education of Looked After Children</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Events</li> </ul>
24 Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• York's Guarantee to Looked After Children</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting – Taking it to the next level</li> </ul>
2 Feb 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health of Looked After Children</li> <li>• Feedback from the Glen in the wider context of short breaks.</li> </ul>
27 April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profile of Looked after Children in the City and the proactive steps being taken in reducing numbers</li> <li>• Promoting a positive sense of identity for all children</li> </ul>

Forward agenda

- Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report - update on issues
- Update from Service Manager and the elected Member with responsibility for visiting children's homes
- Child Sexual Exploitation Update
  
- Members of Board to meet with foster carers (outside of formal meeting)
- Members of Board to meet with members of the Show Me That I Matter Panel (outside of formal meeting)

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