

**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, 2 February 2015
- Time:** 5.00 pm
- Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

Following this meeting, members of the Corporate Parenting Board will have the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Show Me That I Matter (SMTIM) Panel at West Offices.

- 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 24 November 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 30th January 2015.

4. **Listen to Me - Youth Arts and Film Project** (Pages 7 - 10)
This report provides the background to the 'Listen to Me', youth arts and film project. Members will have the opportunity to view the film at this meeting and comment on it.
5. **Work Plan for 2014-15** (Pages 11 - 12)
To consider the Board's work plan for the current municipal year.
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 and louise.cook@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officers 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**

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Corporate Parenting Board
Date	24 November 2014
Present	Councillors Looker (Chair), Brooks, Cuthbertson, Fitzpatrick, Funnell, Gunnell and Wiseman
Apologies	Councillors Runciman

13. 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.

14. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 22 September 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The Chair stated that the minutes did declare that a report on Child Sexual Exploitation and an update report on the Independent Reviewing Officer would be available at this meeting. Officers confirmed that these would be reported at a future meeting and offered to give a brief verbal update to the Board.

The Head of Service for Safeguarding discussed how officers were currently dealing with child sexual exploitation in York and how it impacted upon looked after children and young people. She explained how they worked with other organisations in York and North Yorkshire including the Police to ensure that City of York's current and emerging arrangements would address the issue of child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.

She informed Members of the systems that were currently in place and how imperative it was that officers had a clear understanding of the different definitions linked to child sexual exploitation. The procedures officers follow were discussed especially regarding:

- vulnerable young people sexually abused within exploitative relationships.

- abuse from a family member or from a trusted adult.
- abuse from another child/young person or from an organised group.

It was noted that officers also worked alongside the strategy and procedure models that OFSTED released.

In answer to Members questions it was confirmed that:

- the Police had moved on dramatically in this area and officers would have every confidence in their approach should a case be reported.
- the NSPCC were launching an awareness raising campaign in the New Year.
- all Primary Schools within the City were aware that the NSPCC were offering a free awareness service to all Year 5 and 6 children.
- a website called 'It's Not Ok' would be launched next year for young people to use.
- Childline was still available 24 hours a day.

The Principal Advisor gave a brief verbal update on the Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report. He was pleased to announce that since May 2014 the authority had improved in many areas including:

- Case loads had reduced from an average of 98 to 74. This improvement had made workloads more manageable allowing the quality of work to improve.
- Looked after Children reviews had increased from 86% to 95% which was above the set target of 90%.
- Paperwork had been revised and was now fit for purpose.
- Distributions of reviews had improved from 12% to 55%

He stated that a child's participation in their review had not improved enough and was still around 40%. Officers were looking at ways to improve this figure and would be looking at best practice from other local authorities.

Members thanked officers for their updates and agreed that these subjects needed to be reported and discussed at a future meeting.

15. Public Participation

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

16. York's Guarantee to Looked After Children

Members considered a report that focussed on the work of the Show Me That I Matter Panel.

Members were informed that The Pledge that was endorsed in 2010 to Looked After Children in York had been reviewed by the Show Me That I Matter Panel. They reviewed the experience of looked after children and young people and presented a refreshed, more concise version of the key issues called York's Guarantee.

The Guarantee represents a standard of services for children, young people and care leavers from elected Members, social workers, council staff and its partners. It had been endorsed by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People and the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills.

Members were made aware of the services the Guarantee covered:

- Good placements
- Treated with respect
- Help you keep in touch
- Have fun together
- Help you in school
- Reliable social worker
- An Independent Reviewing Officer you know
- Support you until you're an adult.

The Board found the new Guarantee to be an excellent and honest proclamation and agreed this would not have been achievable without the input of the Show Me That I Matter Panel. Members requested officers inform the Panel of their response and thank them for all their hard work.¹

Members agreed that the Guarantee needed to be promoted especially to all Councillors as their role as a Corporate Parent. Officers agreed to identify the best way to provide an induction to new and existing Members.²

In answer to Members questions, officers confirmed they would be measuring the impact of the new Guarantee and would use the performance indicators to see what difference it had made.

Resolved: That 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 be noted.

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

Action Required

On behalf of the Board thank the SMTIM Panel	HL HL
Source the best way to promote the new Guarantee	

17. Corporate Parenting: Taking It To The Next Level

Members considered a report that focussed 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. These events were entitled Corporate Parenting Taking it to the Next Level and a Passport to Parliament.

Members were made aware of and invited to an event taking place on 6 December 2014 in Leeds regarding Health and Wellbeing.

Members discussed the key areas that were identified at the Leaving Care event that took place in Newcastle on 8 November 2014. These issues related to gas, electricity and winter fuel costs. Officers noted that this was a concern for the whole of the North East and they would be having discussions on this issue.

In answer to Members questions officers confirmed they were developing a guide to advise care leavers of their rights and entitlements about Staying Put and upon leaving care. Officers would support young people into adulthood and if suitable would encourage them to stay with foster carers after their 18th birthday.

Members agreed that officers should receive feedback from children and young people to ensure that the Council was keeping its York's Guarantee promise. It was suggested that a questionnaire be issued to ensure all support was being achieved.

Resolved: That 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.

18. Work Plan for 2014-15

Consideration was given to the Boards work plan for the 2014-15 municipal year.

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

- Members agreed to meet the Show Me That I Matter Panel on 2 February 2015 at 5pm outside of the formal meeting which would begin at 6pm

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

Cllr Looker, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.50 pm].

This page is intentionally left blank



Corporate Parenting Board

2 February 2015

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

Listen to Me – Youth Arts and Film Project**Summary**

1. This report provides the background to the "Listen to Me", youth arts and film project. Members will have the opportunity to view the film at this meeting and comment on it.

Background

2. At previous meetings, discussion has taken place in relation to this project. The film was screened in December 2014 but Members of the Corporate Parenting Board were unable to attend this viewing due to another meeting taking place on the same evening.

Listen to Me

3. Listen to Me is an Inspired Youth arts and film project which has helped give a voice to young people who have experienced being in care. This project received a premiere screening at York City Screen on 10th December 2014. The event also showcased images of the completed artwork and featured a live reading by acclaimed writer and care leaver Paolo Hewitt, who read an excerpt from his new book 'But We All Shine On'.
4. The Arts4Care project - funded by Community York – has worked with looked after young people aged between 12 – 16 in partnership with Inspired Youth and City of York Council's Looked After Children Support Team. Through a series of creative workshops including street arts and poetry, the young people have been on a journey culminating in their own film, which helps build a picture of their experiences of being in care through their eyes.

5. Once Members have viewed the film, there will be an opportunity for them to ask any questions and provide feedback.
6. Following the viewing of the film and the conclusion of the formal meeting, Members have been invited to meet and share information with members of the Show Me That I Matter Panel (SMTIM), a representative group of looked after young people, who are due to meet in West Offices on the same evening.

Consultation

7. 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 film is being shown to progress information sharing with the Board about the experiences of children and young people being in care.

Analysis

9. The voice, views and wishes of looked after children and care leavers provide the clearest information to help inform elected members and senior officers. Listen To Me provides a range of views and reflections from looked after young people regarding key issues in their reception into care; their separation from family members; their contact arrangements; their experiences of placements and their interaction with social workers and independent reviewing officers. The young people's reflections are personal, poignant and significant.

Council Plan 2011-2015

10. Having well informed Members will continue to help the Council deliver its key priorities set out within the Council Plan 2011-15.

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. There are no risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

- 13. Members are asked to note and comment upon the “Listen to Me” film.

Reason:

To ensure that Members are kept informed around developments in relation to the Council’s role as Corporate Parents.

Contact Details

Authors:

Howard Lovelady
Head of Service
(Resources) Children’s
Social Care
Tel: 01904 555357

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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

**Report
Approved**



Date 23.1.2015

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Meeting Date	Work Programme
30 June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good and Safe placements - Reports regarding the adoption and fostering service
22 Sept 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education of Looked After Children • Corporate Parenting Events
24 Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York's Guarantee to Looked After Children • Corporate Parenting – Taking it to the next level
2 Feb 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to Me video from looked after young people • Meet with the Show Me That I Matter Panel outside formal meeting.
27 April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile of Looked after Children in the City and the proactive steps being taken in reducing numbers • Feedback from the Glen in the wider context of short breaks.

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)
- Promoting a positive sense of identity for all children
- Health of Looked After Children

This page is intentionally left blank