

Corporate Parenting Board

10 July 2012

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

Scene Setting for the Work of the Corporate Parenting Board

Summary

1. The council is committed to ensuring that every looked after child has the best possible start in life, is given help to achieve their potential and experiences safe and positive parenting.
2. The Corporate Parenting Board has been established to provide a forum for elected members to oversee the progress of all looked after children , through the implementation of the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15
3. It is noted that this is the first meeting of the newly established Board. This report provides background information which will inform the future work of the Board.

Background

4. The Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15 was published in March 2012, with endorsement by the Cabinet Member for Children, The Chief Executive and the Director of Adults, Children and Education. It followed extensive consultation with children and young people in care, their families, their foster carers and all partner agencies, who work to support these children.
5. This document is a key source for the work of the board. There are action plans relating to all of the strands of the strategy, which will be reviewed at the Strategic Partnership for Looked After Children regularly. The plans relate to Respect and Involvement; Good, Safe Placements: Relationships; Identity; Education; Health; Emotional Wellbeing; Moving into Adulthood and Corporate Parenting.

6. Consideration of the strategy will inform the proposed reporting schedule to the board in relation to all of these important areas for looked after children and partner services. The strategy is attached at Annex A.
7. The document prepared by the Local Government Improvement and Development agency provides valuable guidance for elected members upon the areas of corporate parenting responsibilities. Consideration of the key questions included may shape the reporting requirements from partners working with looked after children, young people and care leavers. The guidance is attached at Annex B.
8. Ofsted undertook an in depth inspection of the services provided by City of York in relation to safeguarding of children and looked after children in March 2012. It was published in May 2012 and provides a valuable basis for the new board to understand the context of local services and the findings of an inspection by Ofsted. The report is attached as Annex C.

Consultation

9. The Looked After Children's strategy was published following consultation with the Show Me That I Matter Panel (the children in care council) and I Matter Too (a younger children's consultation group). There was further consultation with foster carers and all partner agencies, who contribute to the care and support of looked after children.

Options

10. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to establish a work plan and reporting schedule for the quarterly meetings of the Board.

Analysis

11. Not applicable

Council Plan

12. 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
13. 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

14. There are no implications relating to Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology or Property arising from this report.

Risk Management

15. Not applicable

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to consider the information contained in the Looked After Children's Strategy, the LGID guidance and The Ofsted report.
17. It is recommended that the Board requests a schedule of quarterly reports from the Director of Adults, Children and Education relating to the progress of the department and its key partners in progressing the actions to achieve York's vision for looked after children.

Reason: To enable the Corporate Parenting Board to establish the key areas around which future Board work will be focussed, which will assist in holding the council officers and its partners to account in improving the life experiences and chances of York's looked after children.

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Not applicable

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annex A - Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15

Annex B - Scrutinising Services for Looked After Children

Annex C - Ofsted Inspection Report: Safeguarding and Looked After
Children: March 2012