

Corporate Parenting Board

1 October 2012

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

Adoption, Fostering, Education of Looked After Children and Care Leaving Services

Summary

1. The initial meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board will focus on a series of specific areas of interest, related to the Looked After Children's Strategy. The focus in this report will be upon good, safe placements, education and care leaving services.

Background

2. The council's placement strategy focuses upon children being placed with local foster families, where practicable. For children, who can not return to the care of their parents or extended family, there is an explicit commitment to seeking adoption families, in which they will have the opportunity to grow up in a new permanent, loving family.

The fostering and adoption services are registered with Ofsted as the regulatory authority. There is an extensive legislative base underpinned by regulation, national minimum standards and an inspection framework.

The regulations require that each service report on a regular basis to the Director of Children's Services and the Executive Member with responsibility for Children's Services. The reports for the annual review of the adoption service and the quarterly report of the fostering service for period April to June 2012 are submitted for consideration (appendices A and B).

Each local authority is required to appoint a senior teacher to act as a Head Teacher of the virtual school of looked after children. The Head Teacher of the virtual school works to support the education

of looked after children and care leavers in their various settings. The role of head teacher of the virtual school has recently transferred from Sian Rees, Deputy Head Teacher at Fulford School to Tricia Head, Head Teacher of Danesgate. A progress report about the attainment of looked after children is submitted for consideration (appendix C).

The experience of looked after children and young people can often be measured best by the success of their journey into adulthood. The Pathway Team undertakes support to care leavers. A progress report about care leavers' experiences is submitted for consideration (appendix D).

Consultation

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

Options

4. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to establish a working knowledge for the Board of the experience of looked after children.

Analysis

5. Not applicable

Council Plan

6. 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**, Not applicable
- **Equalities**, Not applicable
- **Legal**, Not applicable
- **Crime and Disorder**, Not applicable
- **Information Technology**, Not applicable
- **Property**, Not applicable
- **Other**, Not applicable

Risk Management

8. Not applicable

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Board receives the 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: The Board will be able to ensure that all partners in the Strategic Partnership for Looked After Children are making good progress to address the areas for development identified in the Looked After Children's strategy 2012-15 and the Pledge to Looked After Children.

Contact Details

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Report Approved Yes **Date** 24/09/12

Chief Officer's name
Title

Report Approved tick **Date** Insert Date

Specialist Implications Officer:

Not applicable

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

Adoption Service Report 2012, Annex A

Fostering Service Report April 2012 to June 2012, Annex B

Education of Looked After Children Progress Report, Annex C

Moving to Adulthood LAC Action Plan Update, Annex D