

Corporate Parenting Board

7 March 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. 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 and the Director of Adults, Children and Education.

Consultation

3. If the Corporate Parenting Board considers that the Charter should be signed for the Council, consultation could be undertaken with looked after children at the Show Me That I Matter (Children in Care council) to ensure that any local considerations are also included in the Charter recommended by the Department for Education.

Options

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

5. Option 2: It is proposed that a local Charter is developed to reflect the local considerations which are not fully catered for in the national charter

Analysis

6. Consideration of the above options will best be informed by advice from the managers in the care leaving service, who have direct involvement in national benchmarking forums, in which all local authorities are represented. The managers will attend the Corporate Parenting Board to share their knowledge from the national discussions.

7. 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.

8. 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

9. This report recommends that the Corporate Parenting Board agrees to the endorsement of the Care Leavers Charter by the Cabinet Member and the Director of Children's Services subject to 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

Dept Name
Tel No. 555357

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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

Report Approved **Yes** **Date** 26 Feb 2013

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Care Leavers Charter, Department of Education