

Corporate Parenting Board

3 October 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. The Corporate Parenting Board considered the proposed charter in March 2013 and asked for local consultation to be undertaken with York's looked after young people and care leavers. 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 for Education, Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Adults, Children's and Education. The York charter has been developed in consultation with local young people.

Consultation

- 3 Consultation has been undertaken with looked after children at the Show Me That I Matter (Children in Care council) and with care leavers working with the Pathway Team. This will ensure that any local considerations are also included in the charter recommended by the Department for Education. The feedback from local young people was that they would prefer a briefer commitment, which could be summarised in bullet points and it would be no longer than 1 page.

Options

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

Analysis

5. Consideration of the above options has been informed by advice from the manager in the care leaving service, who has engaged in direct involvement with York's young people and care leavers as well as the national benchmarking forums, in which all local authorities are represented. The manager will attend the Corporate Parenting Board to share his knowledge from the local and national discussions.
6. **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

7. 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

8. This report recommends that the Corporate Parenting Board agrees to the endorsement of the Care Leavers Charter by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Children's Services following the conclusion of the 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
 X5357

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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

Report Approved **Date** 23.9.13

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

AI
I

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Appendix A

York's Care Leavers Charter (final draft)

Appendix B

National Care Leavers Charter, Department of Education