

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

7 May 2014

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

## **Show Me That I Matter Annual Report and U Matter Survey Findings**

### **Summary**

1. This paper provides an update on two reports for discussion.
  - The first annual Show Me That I Matter (SMTIM) report (Annex A)
  - The U Matter Survey findings and recommendations (Annex B)

### **Background**

2. York has a strong history of involving children and young people in services that affect their lives. The voice of children and young people is understood to be a key component in improving outcomes for children and young people. This ranges from affecting the individual experiences of children and young people and also how messages can inform more system wide and strategic developments.

### **Show Me That I Matter report**

3. Across arrangements for children and young people there is a matrix of opportunities for children and young people to have a voice and to be involved. The Show Me That I Matter panel is a key channel for Looked After Children (LAC) in York. The group hold monthly panel meetings to raise and discuss issues that are important to Looked After Children and young people, with the aim that councillors will help to shape and improve the services for looked after children and young people. A number of LAC aged 14-19 directly attend but messages are drawn from a much wider audience of Looked After Children. These messages may come from:
  - We Talk 2
  - U Matter survey
  - SMTIM Facebook Group

4. For the first time an annual report has been produced to summarise the work of the group over the last year. A full report and a child friendly version of the report have been produced. The full report is available as Annex A.
5. The Board is asked to:
  - read the annual review to understand the work of SMTIM.
  - comment on the report or issues highlighted in it.
  - identify issues raised that the Corporate Parenting Board could progress further.

### **UMatter Survey Findings**

6. In 2013 the U Matter survey was developed as a way of monitoring the effectiveness and functionality of the Pledge for Looked After Children. The U Matter survey provided a chance for children and young people in care to inform the Children's Rights and Advocacy service about their experience of living in care. The survey was available to complete online or via interview: interviews were conducted by professionals, the Children's Rights and Advocacy Service and Show Me That I Matter.
7. A copy of the report and its recommendation is available as Annex B. A summary of findings can be found below.
8. Most young people were positive about their placements and felt listened to by their foster carers; they were invited to family events and felt able to talk to a foster carer or social worker if there was a problem. Most young people feel they have been treated as an individual, with respect, have had a say in decisions that have been made about them, and were positive about the relationship they had with their social worker. However making contact with social workers wasn't always easy. Most young people were happy with their contact arrangements with family. Young people were positive about the support they had received in accessing health services and reported that they were encouraged to take part in leisure activities.

9. Over a third of young people didn't answer questions about Reviews, indicative of disinterest from young people. Many young people didn't know who their Independent Reviewing officer (IRO) was, this tended to be because their IRO had not visited them between review meetings. However young people tended to feel comfortable enough to have their say in their review meeting. Young people generally felt well supported in their education, yet nearly half of young people thought that they didn't have a Personal Education Plan.
10. More than half of young people were unaware of the Rights and Advocacy Service, however most young people knew they had a right to complain. Overall young people were very positive about their experience of being Looked After by City of York Council with 76% said their experience of being looked after as either 'good' or 'very good'. 58% gave City of York 5/5 for the quality of placements and 90% agreed with the statement that 'City of York Council provides good quality placements.
11. The Board is asked to note the contents of the report and discuss its recommendations.

### **Consultation**

12. The work of each of the officers reporting to the Board is undertaken with consultation with service users e.g. looked after children and care leavers foster carers, adopters, Feedback from Show Me That I Matter and I Matter Too (representatives of all looked after children)

### **Options**

13. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to progress information sharing with the Board about the experience of looked after children.

## **Analysis**

14. There are key messages from the feedback of young people both in the Show Me That I Matter annual report and the U Matter survey for 2013-14. In conjunction with the feedback from key officers from children's social care, education, health and the manager of the independent reviewing officers, this report provides valuable information for the review of the Looked After Children's Strategy 2012-15. The findings will also provide a basis for the preparation of the refreshed strategy for 2015-18.

## **Council Plan**

15. 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

16. 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**

17. 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

18. Not applicable

## Recommendations

19. The Board is asked to:
- (i) read the SMTIM annual report and the U Matter Survey.
  - (ii) comment on the report or issues highlighted in it.
  - (iii) identify issues raised that the Corporate Parenting Board could progress further.

## Reason

20. The views, wishes and feelings of looked after children and young people are central to the strategic planning for current and future services for this group of young people.

## Contact Details

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 25 April 14

### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

### Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

Annex A - Show Me That I Matter (SMTIM) report

Annex B - U-Matter Survey findings and recommendations

**Abbreviations:**

Show Me That I Matter (SMTIM)

Looked After Children (LAC)

Independent Reviewing officer (IRO)