

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

2 February 2015

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

### **Listen to Me – Youth Arts and Film Project**

#### **Summary**

1. This report provides the background to the "Listen to Me", youth arts and film project. Members will have the opportunity to view the film at this meeting and comment on it.

#### **Background**

2. At previous meetings, discussion has taken place in relation to this project. The film was screened in December 2014 but Members of the Corporate Parenting Board were unable to attend this viewing due to another meeting taking place on the same evening.

#### **Listen to Me**

3. Listen to Me is an Inspired Youth arts and film project which has helped give a voice to young people who have experienced being in care. This project received a premiere screening at York City Screen on 10th December 2014. The event also showcased images of the completed artwork and featured a live reading by acclaimed writer and care leaver Paolo Hewitt, who read an excerpt from his new book 'But We All Shine On'.
4. The Arts4Care project - funded by Community York – has worked with looked after young people aged between 12 – 16 in partnership with Inspired Youth and City of York Council's Looked After Children Support Team. Through a series of creative workshops including street arts and poetry, the young people have been on a journey culminating in their own film, which helps build a picture of their experiences of being in care through their eyes.

5. Once Members have viewed the film, there will be an opportunity for them to ask any questions and provide feedback.
6. Following the viewing of the film and the conclusion of the formal meeting, Members have been invited to meet and share information with members of the Show Me That I Matter Panel (SMTIM), a representative group of looked after young people, who are due to meet in West Offices on the same evening.

### **Consultation**

7. Feedback from Show Me That I Matter and I Matter Too (representatives of all looked after children) York Area Foster Carers Association, is regularly sought and incorporated into the service development.

### **Options**

8. There are no options for decision, as the film is being shown to progress information sharing with the Board about the experiences of children and young people being in care.

### **Analysis**

9. The voice, views and wishes of looked after children and care leavers provide the clearest information to help inform elected members and senior officers. Listen To Me provides a range of views and reflections from looked after young people regarding key issues in their reception into care; their separation from family members; their contact arrangements; their experiences of placements and their interaction with social workers and independent reviewing officers. The young people's reflections are personal, poignant and significant.

### **Council Plan 2011-2015**

10. Having well informed Members will continue to help the Council deliver its key priorities set out within the Council Plan 2011-15.

### **Implications**

11. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, information technology or property implications arising from this report.

## **Risk Management**

12. There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Recommendations**

13. Members are asked to note and comment upon the “Listen to Me” film.

### **Reason:**

To ensure that Members are kept informed around developments in relation to the Council’s role as Corporate Parents.

## **Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**

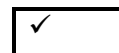


**Date** 23.1.2015

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



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

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Annexes**

None