

Chief Executives Group – North Yorkshire and York

8 November 2018

Corporate parenting responsibilities: Promises

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To alert Chief Officers to:

- discussions between county and district colleagues regarding practical support for children looked after and care leavers; and
- a series of informal events, being arranged at a local level, to launch the recently agreed LAC strategy

2.0 Background

2.1 A previous report explained that The Children and Social Work Act 2017 extended Corporate Parenting responsibilities to both County and District Local Authorities. Over recent weeks, NYCC officers from the Multi- Agency Looked After Childrens Partnership have been working closely with district council colleagues to identify where corporate parenting “promises” can be translated into action on a locality basis.

2.2 The corporate parenting strategy set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

2.3 To deliver against these principles, district and borough councils are being invited to explore the options outlined below. The preferred approach is that, wherever possible, a consistent offer across the county is agreed. To help progress this, the expectation is there will be a named lead at district council level for each action.

2.4 Initial discussions suggest that the priorities for 2018/2018 that all district colleagues can focus on include:

- Access to leisure passes particularly on gym and swim passes for looked after children and care leavers.
- Promise of a guaranteed interview should a care leaver have the minimum qualifications for an apprenticeship or graduate scheme within the councils.
- Opportunities for looked after children and care leavers to have work experience opportunities in all parts of the council services.
- Ensuring gold banded status continues for care leavers registering on North Yorkshire home choice, and similar schemes operating cross the county.
- Ensuring intentional homeless decisions are never made for any looked after child and every opportunity is taken to not give an intentional homeless decision for a care leaver.
- Council Tax arrangements. Ongoing work to ensure council tax departments are linked in closely with leaving care locality tams and when appropriate the Districts are sympathetic to requests to exempt particular care leavers from council tax payments for a set period.
- To have an awareness of the looked after children and care leavers youth voice events that take place in their area and attend/contribute when required and act on any issues young people identify. This takes into account principles 2/3

2.5 Clearly, if officers are to meet these promises, they will be looking for leadership support at a local level.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That district councils work alongside the Local Authority Children and families service over the next 12 months to develop an offer to children in care and care leavers.

3.2 It be noted that in relation to the specific promises identified, current thinking is that a district council representative from each area will coordinate activity against each action.

4.0 Local Launches

4.1 In tandem with these discussions, and to build upon the initial momentum achieved, a series of events are being arranged to launch the recently agreed LAC strategy. Invites are to be sent to young people, partners, county and district councilors, foster carers, and the voluntary sector.

4.2 These events - very much informal in nature - will run from 5:30 until 6:30pm and are being hosted by the district councils at venues in their area. The schedule is:

Scarborough/Ryedale	Monday 26 November 2016	Scarborough Council offices
Selby	Thursday 29 November 2018	Selby Civic centre
Harrogate/Craven	Monday 3 December 2018	Harrogate Civic Centre
Hambleton/Richmond	Tuesday 4 December 2018	Hambleton District Council Offices

5.0 Recommended

5.1 Chief Officers are asked to note the series of events.

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29 October 2018

Despite strengths and recent achievements – there are huge challenges



312th
out of 324 districts

– the North Yorkshire Coast's ranking in the Social Mobility Index*. The Index compares the chances that a child from a disadvantaged background will do well at school and get a good job in areas across the country.

