

**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
**Title of report:** Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum Update

**Purpose of report** To inform the Board of the work of the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum groups between the months of April 2018 to November 2018. This report includes details of the reviewed and re-launched Kirklees Pledge for children and young people who are looked after by the Local Authority

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name  Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?  Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Elaine McShane (for Sal Tariq) – 6.11.18
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr. Viv Kendrick (Children's)

**Electoral wards affected:** Not applicable

**Ward councillors consulted:** Not applicable

**Public or private:** Public

## 1. Summary

The Children in Care Council meets bi-weekly on a Monday evening and is a meeting for children and young people aged 12 to 15 who are in the care of the Local Authority. The aim of the group is to discuss the issues for children and young people who are in care and to work with professionals to try and improve services, to ensure that they meet the needs of those who are in receipt of them.

The Care Leavers Forum is for young people aged 16 to 21 (or 25 if still in full time education) and the remit is to discuss the issues that young people face as they prepare to leave care and move into independence. Again, young people work with professionals to try to improve services and ensure that they meet need. This group meets bi-weekly on a Wednesday evening.

Over the last 12 months changes in services have led to a time of challenge and change for the council and forum. However, in October a permanent worker was appointed, to take a lead on developing both the council and forum, with focus on increased and representative membership which leads to stability and effectiveness.

Between April 2018 and November 2018 the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum have been consulted about the following issues / topics which their views have influenced:

- Re- designing and re-launching of the Kirklees Pledge which is the promise to all young people from Kirklees Council about how they can expect to be cared for by the Local Authority
- Sufficiency Strategy – consultation regarding suitable accommodation for children and young people
- Consultation regarding mental health services for care leavers and the design of these services to be delivered through the Placement Support Team
- Consultation with the Placement Support Team in order to consider how young people can be involved in the recruitment of foster carers at an earlier stage.
- Consultation with Management about what young people would want to see in the Local Offer for Care Leavers document (to be known as Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers).

- Consultation with the Risk and Vulnerability Team about a new name for the team, evaluations to be given to young people when they have worked with them and a leaflet for young people which explains what they do.

The full report for Children and Care Council Care Leavers Forum update is attached at Appendix 1.

## 2. **Information required to take a decision**

For information only, no decision required

## 3. **Implications for the Council**

### 3.1 **Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)**

Not applicable

### 3.2 **Economic Resilience (ER)**

Not applicable

### 3.3 **Improving Outcomes for Children**

- A new and improved Pledge document which is child friendly has been produced and this is attached at Appendix 1.
- Children and young people have influenced the training of staff and quality standards in respect of placements
- The views of young people influenced the designing of the new mental health support services which are delivered through the Placement Support Team.
- The views of children and young people have been sought so that their voice will have increased influence in the recruitment of foster carers
- The views of young people will be incorporated into the Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers document
- The views of children and young people have influenced the new name of the Risk and Vulnerability Team to something which young people will feel comfortable with. They will also continue to work with the Risk and Vulnerability Team on literature which is appealing, informative and appropriate for young people
- Softer outcomes for children and young people involved in these groups have also achieved, such as new friendships, increased confidence and the development of debating, negotiation and presenting information skills.

**3.4 Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

**3.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

**4. Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

**5. Next steps**

- Pledge to be fully re-launched with all professionals, carers and children and young people being aware and having copies of the document
- To increase the membership of both the Council and the Forum, to ensure that they are representative of all groups of children and young people
- To improve links with managers of services, to ensure that there is an effective mechanism for communication and the development of services which are led by children and young people, whilst also providing a forum for managers to consult children and young people.
- Action planning for January to July 2019, by establishing clear Action Plans for both the Council and the Forum
- Links with the Regional Children in Care Council meetings, in order to share ideas and priorities and also increase the voice and influence of children and young people on issues which affect young people across the region.

**6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

**7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

**8. Contact officer**

Melanie Tiernan

**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable

**10. Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)