

## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 19 SEPT 2011

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Children in Care & Care Leavers Charter	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Satinder Gautam Director Safeguarding	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Paulette Thompson-Omenka – Head of Service Children in Care <a href="mailto:paulette.thompson-omenka@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">paulette.thompson-omenka@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> 8765023 Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Officer <a href="mailto:jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> 8764817	
<b>Relevant Council Plan theme(s):</b>		
World Class Nottingham		X
Work in Nottingham		X
Safer Nottingham		✓
Neighbourhood Nottingham		X
Family Nottingham		✓
Healthy Nottingham		✓
Serving Nottingham Better		X
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
It is proposed that the existing “Corporate Parenting Promise” be replaced by a “Children in Care and Care Leavers Charter”, stating the commitments made by Nottingham City Council, as a Corporate Parent, to the children and young people for whom it has this responsibility. This is in accordance with the Family Pledge approach launched in December 2010.		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
1	That the Corporate Parenting Board notes the contents of the report.	
2	That the Corporate Parenting Board approve the appended draft Children in Care & Care Leavers Charter or recommend any necessary amendments to this.	

### **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The present Corporate Parenting Promise was written approximately four years ago. It has not been significantly revised since.
- 1.2 Following the launch of the Family Pledge approach in December 2010, it is thought appropriate to produce a Charter for Nottingham’s Children in Care and Care Leavers that outlines what they have a right to expect from their Corporate Parent.
- 1.3 This Charter will, therefore, effectively replace the existing, more concise, Corporate Parenting Promise.

### **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 Nottingham City Council’s responsibilities as Corporate Parent effectively reside with the Corporate Parenting Board. It is this Board that should determine the final form and content of the proposed Children in Care & Care Leavers Charter.

- 2.2 This Charter has been discussed at the Children In Care Outcomes group, the multi-agency officer group that works to and informs the Corporate Parenting Board. This group has had the opportunity to comment on and amend the Charter.
- 2.3 An earlier draft version of this Charter has been presented to and discussed at a meeting of the Children in Care Council. The views of this group have been incorporated into the current draft appended to this report.

### **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

- 4.1 An annual questionnaire for all care leavers and children in care above the age of five years is being developed. It is intended that this questionnaire will be a significant – although not the only - means of obtaining feedback as to how well the commitments in the Charter are being kept.
- 4.2 There will be some costs associated with undertaking this questionnaire. A detailed costing is being produced as part of the development work although this is not expected to exceed a few hundred pounds. This will essentially be design and postage costs and will replace the existing annual questionnaire sent to all children in foster care placements.

### **5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 There are no specific risk management issues arising from the information contained in this report.

### **6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

- 6.1 None

### **7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 7.1 None

# Nottingham City Council

## Children in Care & Care Leavers Charter

*“Looked after children deserve the best experiences in life, from excellent parenting which promotes good health and educational attainment, to a wide range of opportunities to develop their talents and skills in order to have an enjoyable childhood and successful adult life. Stable placements, good health and support during transition are all essential elements, but children will only achieve their potential through the ambition and high expectation of all those involved in their lives.”*

*(The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations)*

Nottingham City Council has a responsibility to children and young people in its care and to its care leavers.

This responsibility is represented by the term “Corporate Parenting”: Nottingham City Council is the “Corporate Parent” for all children and young people in its care and its care leavers.

Because of this responsibility, Nottingham City Council makes the commitments below.

***We will ensure that all children and young people in and leaving our care have the right home and support to keep them safe and well and to help them grow into happy, healthy, successful and fulfilled young adults who are optimistic about their future.***

### Commitments to children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will treat all our children and young people with respect and with regard to their age and understanding
- We will give our children and young people enough time and help to understand (and be happy) with their circumstances
- We will make sure that they know about the advocacy and complaints services in case they want help to have their views heard or are unhappy with us
- We will listen to our children and young people and involve them in planning for their care
- We will keep our children and young people safe and well by:
  - Seeing that they have the right place to live as quickly as possible

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- Making sure that this home keeps them safe
- Giving them the right support to be as healthy as possible
- We will help our children and young people to enjoy themselves
- We will help them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability
- We know that a change of home, carer, social worker or school can easily cause problems for a child or young person so we promise to do all we can to prevent such changes, unless they are absolutely necessary
- We will make sure that a child or young person stays in touch with their birth family and friends as much as possible, considering their safety and wellbeing
- We will help our children and young people to plan for and achieve a successful journey into independent adulthood
- We will ensure that all our children and young people - and the adults working for them - know about these promises

Commitments concerning children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will make sure that Nottingham City Council is the best Corporate Parent it can be and achieve improved and sustainable outcomes for children and young people in and leaving our care.
- We will ensure that everyone who shares our responsibility to children and young people in care and care leavers helps us to keep these promises.
- When there are changes to the law or other things that affect the lives of children and young people in and leaving our care, everyone involved - Nottingham City Council and its partners - will respond together, for the benefit of our children and young people.
- We will let children, young people and everyone else concerned with these commitments know how well we are keeping them by reporting about them regularly.

Version 3.3	7/7/11
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