



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

23RD APRIL 2009

MIDDLESBROUGH PLEDGE - UPDATE

**COUNCILLOR MIKE CARR- EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING**

**GILL ROLLINGS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Corporate Parenting Board of the progress made in relation to the development of Middlesbrough's Pledge to Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

BACKGROUND & CONSULTATION

2. As previously reported (11/9/2008, 4/12/2008, 22/1/2009 & 5/3/2009) work is underway to develop the Middlesbrough Pledge to Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

THE DRAFT PLEDGE

3. As previously reported (5/3/2009), the outcomes of the sessions held during February have been used to develop a draft Pledge (Appendix 1). This was based on the priorities identified by children, young people and adults on 18th February and with reference to the outcomes of previous consultation on the Pledge. The aim was to keep the Pledge as simple as possible whilst clearly reflecting the priorities identified by children and young people.
4. Additional guidance for staff will be required to ensure that the intention behind each promise is clearly understood and implemented appropriately. Additional information will also be needed to ensure that children and young people are clear

about exactly what level of support they can expect from the local authority. As the intention is to link the Pledge to the development of each child's care plan, this additional information and guidance will support that process.

PLEDGE DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

5. A further session for children and young people has been arranged (provisionally) for May 20th. Another joint session for children, young people and adults would ideally take place during the May half-term holiday and has been arranged (provisionally) for 27th May. However, it is important that key adults are available for that discussion and it may be necessary to arrange an alternative date for an evening or weekend session during term time.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

6. Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

7. The finance required to support this process is being met from the Care Matters grant funding. There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. As Corporate Parents, this report will be of interest to all elected Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board,
 - a). discuss the draft Pledge and form a view on the proposed promises.
 - b). advise the Executive to note the progress made in developing the Middlesbrough Pledge.

REASONS

9. The Corporate Parenting Board has played a key role in the development of the Pledge and Members views are needed, to inform the next stages of the process. It is also important that the Executive is aware of the progress being made on the development of the Pledge.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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Draft for discussion

The Pledge - "A promise you have to keep"

Version 1 - April 3rd 2009

Introduction

This Pledge will be used to:

- ❖ make sure we listen to you and take your views seriously.
 - ❖ help us work with you to make a Care Plan that says how we will look after you.
- We will try very hard to make sure that you live with people who care about you and care for you.
- ❖ We will make sure you feel welcome and we will explain the 'house rules'.
 - ❖ We will make sure you have opportunities to talk to someone about where you live.
 - ❖ We will try to make sure you have security, private space and time for you.
 - ❖ We will provide support and guidance with money.
 - ❖ We will support you to take part in activities that you enjoy.
 - ❖ We will try to make sure you have a holiday.
- We will help you to keep in touch with your family.
- We will help you to make friends and build relationships.
- ❖ We will make sure you have the chance to meet other children and young people that we look after.
 - ❖ We will make sure you can visit your friends and that they can visit you.
- We will believe in you and support you to do well in education, training and employment.

- We will encourage you to aspire and achieve your ambitions.
- We will make sure that there is a way to make things happen for you.
 - ❖ We will make sure you have a say about who comes to your review.
 - ❖ We will make sure you have an opportunity to influence decisions about any issues that matter to you.
- We will make sure you can talk to the adults who make decisions that affect you.
- We will make sure you have someone, who will listen, that you can talk to about how we look after you.
 - ❖ We will make sure you can talk to someone independent.
 - ❖ We will try not to make assumptions about you.
 - ❖ We will explain how and why decisions are made.
 - ❖ We will make sure you know what to do if you are unhappy about something and will support you if you want to make a complaint.
- We will keep things confidential.
- We will support you if you feel that you are being treated unfairly.
- We will support individuals and groups to deal with bullying, wherever it happens.
 - ❖ We will make sure you have the opportunity to talk to someone who can help and give you their contact number.
 - ❖ We will give you the chance to learn how to deal with bullying.