



## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 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, 23/4/2009 & 25/6/2009) the Middlesbrough Pledge to Children Looked After and Care Leavers has been drafted in a partnership process involving children, young people elected Members, managers and front line staff.
3. The children and young people met on 27<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the draft Pledge and made some suggestions for change. They then met with the key adults on 4<sup>th</sup> June to present the outcome of their work. The Executive subsequently approved the Pledge on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009.
4. The next stage in the process will be to bring together children, young people and front line staff to develop a clear understanding of how the Pledge will be implemented within Care Planning processes. Guidance for staff will be produced as well as information for children and young people to explain what they can expect from the local authority. Progress on these processes will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Board in due course.

## **OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT**

5. Not applicable to this report.

## **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS**

6. 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**

7. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the next stage in developing the Middlesbrough Pledge.

## **REASONS**

8. The Pledge is now a key commitment by the local authority and it is important that the Executive is aware of the progress being made on the implementation of the Pledge.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**Author:** Sue Little, Children's Participation Officer  
**Tel No:** 01642 728706

---

*Address: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL*  
*Website: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>*

### The Pledge - "A promise you have to keep"

June 4th 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.

#### The Pledge

We promise that:

- 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 a chance to talk to someone about where you live.
  - ❖ We will try to make sure you feel safe, have 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 think about your dreams 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 a chance 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 unless action is needed to keep people safe.
- 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 chance 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.
  - ❖ We will take action to do something about the people who bully.
- We will explain what words mean and things that you do not understand.