

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## Corporate Parenting Board

### CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER STRATEGY

**Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr**

**Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings**

**31 March 2011**

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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To inform the Corporate Parenting Board about the reviewed Children Looked After Strategy attached as Appendix A, and the way this seeks to ensure that corporate parents provide excellent opportunities for children looked after by Middlesbrough Council to lead positive, successful and happy lives. The strategy outlines how children and young people will hold elected Members and officers of Middlesbrough Council to account in respect of the service they receive.

#### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the services provided to children looked after and the associated action plan, which was devised by children and young people via their pledge.

#### IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)   
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards   
Non Key

#### DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent   
Urgent report

If urgent, please give full reasons.

## **BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

5. The Corporate Parenting Board considered the previous Children Looked After Strategy at a meeting in 2008. Since this time, there have been several changes of officers at strategic level and, significantly, the implementation of the Children's Pledge, which now directs the work of agencies in meeting the needs of children looked after and those using leaving care services.
6. It was timely to review the strategy and the resulting document (attached as Appendix A) has the 'Pledge Promises' as its foundation, ensuring that children and young people have not only contributed to, but also directed the way in which the local authority will conduct services relating to them. Key partners have contributed to the strategy and plan, and this will be reviewed via the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership, running concurrently with the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7. The Children Looked After Strategy was developed to assist in 'closing the gap' between achievements and outcomes of children looked after and leaving care, and those of their peers in the community as a whole. As such, the information presented represents a bid to positively address discrimination which this vulnerable group may otherwise experience.

## **OPTION APPRAISAL**

8. None required.

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

9. There are no financial or legal implications contained in this report.
10. There are no specific Ward implications; this report will be of interest to all.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

11. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the content of the Children Looked After Strategy and its responsibility for ensuring that agencies work together to achieve positive outcomes for this most vulnerable group of children and young people looked after and leaving care.

## **REASONS**

12. The Council is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all children looked after by the local authority and their successful journey through care and into adulthood is the paramount consideration at all times.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Children Looked After Strategy, 2008 (Suzanne King)
- The Pledge, (children looked after and leaving care, 2010)

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