

YOU MATTER TO US- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Tuesday 28th November, 2023
Time: 4.00 pm
Venue: Mandela room

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes- Corporate Parenting Board- 13 September 2023 5 - 10

Follow up items from 13 September 2023

4. Middlesbrough Virtual School- Islington Model

Victoria Banks, Virtual School Head will share a model from Islington which they hope to adapt for Middlesbrough. The app will take into consideration views from our young people and include the local care leaver offer.

Standard Items

5. Care experienced Youth Voice Update- September 2023- November 2023 11 - 18

Our Care Ambassadors, Holly, Caitlin and Adam will provide an update to the Board.

6. Corporate Parenting Board- Performance data

Dawn Alaszewski, Interim Director of Children's Care will present Middlesbrough's performance data to the Board.

Theme- Pathways

7. Pathways Journey- Our Improvement

8. Feedback from 'You matter to us ' engagement session - 9 November 2023 19 - 26

On 9 November 2023, Holly Sharp, Care Ambassador provided a presentation and led an engagement session regarding Pathways.

The presentation is attached for information, along with the list of 'I pledge to change' made by Councillors/ Officers who attended the meeting.

9. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider passing a Resolution Pursuant to Section 100A (4) Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 excluding the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that if present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10. **Adoption Tees Valley- Middlesbrough's Performance and Update** 27 - 80

Vicky Davison- Boyd, Service Manager , will be in attendance to provide an overview of Middlesbrough's performance data.

Vicky will be joined by a number of care experienced young people.

1, 2

11. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Monday 20 November 2023

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors C Cooke - Elected Mayor (Chair), J Walker (Vice-Chair), D Jackson, J Kabuye, T Livingstone, M Nugent, A Romaine, Z Uddin, G Wilson,

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susie Blood, 01642 729645, susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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YOU MATTER TO US- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

A meeting of the You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board was held on Wednesday 13 September 2023.

PRESENT: Councillors C Cooke - Elected Mayor (Chair), Z Uddin, D Jackson and J Kabuye

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: H Sharp and C O'Connor

OFFICERS: V Banks, S Blood, R Brown, T Dunn, R Hamer, hart, Beevers, Peacock and D Alaszewski

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors J Walker, G Nicholson, T Livingstone, M Nugent, C Heaphy, M Storey, P Storey and Horsley

22/1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

22/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

22/3 **MINUTES- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD- 22 FEBRUARY 2023**

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 22 February 2023 were read and accepted as a true record.

22/4 **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD- OFFICIAL NAME CHANGE**

The Chair advised that following consultation with our care experienced young people, it was felt that the Corporate Parenting Board should be renamed to a title which was more reflective of the Boards purpose. It was therefore proposed that that the name of the Board be changed to changed to 'You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board'.

The Chair conducted a vote in respect to the name change and all were in favour.

AGREED:

- That the Corporate Parenting Board's name be changed with the following-
You Matter to us- the Corporate Parenting Board.
- That the name change be formally approved by Council. Corporate Parenting Board was reconstituted as a Council Committee on 16 January 2019, therefore any changes would require to be formally approved by Council.

22/5 **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD- DRAFT NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chair presented the draft new terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Board. It was outlined that once agreed, these would be submitted to Council for information.

It was clarified that in the original terms of reference circulated there had been a comment regarding the Corporate Parenting Board taking over the governance of the Virtual School Governing Body. The Democratic Services Officer outlined that this was not the case as the Governing Body would continue to run as it was with support from the Corporate Parenting Board. The Terms of reference had been updated to reflect this.

AGREED

That the Terms of reference for You Matter to Us- The Corporate Parenting Board, be agreed and submitted to Council for formal approval.

22/6

CARE EXPERIENCED YOUTH VOICE UPDATE FEBRUARY-AUGUST 2023

The Chair welcomed Adam, Holly and Caitlin to the meeting. The 3 care experienced young people had become care ambassadors and had been co-opted onto the Board.

Adam firstly outlined that Middlesbrough's Participation Team facilitates open, safe, and inclusive spaces for care experienced young people to tell us what is important to them. The team capture this information and support them to tell officers and councillors so you can improve the support they and others receive.

There were currently two groups which were supported:

'We Matter' (Middlesbrough's Children in Care Council)

- Care experienced young people aged 11 - 16 years meet fortnightly at Easterside Hub 17:00 - 18:30pm. We have five members
- They have fun, have a voice and create events to hear from their care experienced peers
- They share their views with key decision makers who act on what they say and positively change services to meet their needs
- They will support teams to act on what they say and help monitor the 'You Said, We Will, We Did' reporting tool
- We meet with young people at their residential homes

Older Care Experienced Young People

- We have three older care experienced who have volunteer roles as Care Ambassadors and are co-opted onto the Corporate Parenting Board.
- The Care Ambassadors will support the work of 'We Matter' and create engagement events for their older care experienced peers
- We work with Pathways to support them with their events - Annual celebration event, Christmas dinner and we will engage with their care experienced young adults at the Forum

The young people provided an update in relation to the groups between February- August 2023. Whilst all the updates were outlined in the report, below are a number of examples given:

Adam firstly outlined that Middlesbrough's Participation Team facilitates open, safe, and inclusive spaces for care experienced young people to tell us what is important to them. We capture this information and support them to tell you so you can improve the support they and others receive.

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- The Care Ambassadors will support the work of 'We Matter' and create engagement events for their older care experienced peers
- We work with Pathways to support them with their events - Annual celebration event, Christmas dinner and we will engage with their care experienced young adults at the Forum

Over the next few months the young people plan to:

- Continue to work with the teams to promote the We Matter group to increase membership and attendance at the engagement events
- Have all our care experienced young people/adults set up as volunteers
- Create ASDAN awards to provide accreditation for their work
- Work with the Commissioning team to create 'Young Commissioners'
- Have the new Care Ambassadors attend the Corporate Parenting Board - 13th September
- Hold a fun engagement event at Teesside University - Looking at Safety - 14th September
- Meet more care experienced young people who live in residential care
- Support We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to work with the fostering service to talk with potential foster carers
- Work with the fostering service to put on a 'Halloween' event - 31st October
- Involve We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to undertake Regional Children in Care Council work- the first event is on the 1 November 2023.
- Work with Virtual school to create a music group
- Invite our care experienced young people with special educational needs and disabilities to attend the Choice event - 7th November
- Hold a Christmas party for care experienced young people.

Following the presentation the Mayor advised that the input the young people had been invaluable to the interview process of the DSO for children's services. He also queried whether they felt they were listened to and able to have an influence on decision making.

In response, the young people felt that they were but there was always room to improve. Example of this were being able to visit residential homes,

introduction of 'you said, we will, we did' and able to participate in regional activities.

The Care Ambassadors asked the Board for officer presence at the Regional Children in care meeting in November and this would be discussed and representative would attend.

AGREED

That the update be noted.

22/7

YOU SAID, WE WILL, WE DID

On 25 July 2023, a number members from the Corporate Parenting Board and officers met with Middlesbrough's care experienced young people to discuss what matters to them in terms of their mental health and wellbeing.

The statements and comments were collated into the 'you said we will, we did ' document, attached to the agenda pack for the meeting.

The document has been provided for information.

AGREED

That the 'You said, we will, we did' document be noted,

22/8

MENTAL HEALTH- SUPPORT

To support our care experienced young people, Donna Horsley, Clinical Nurse Specialist works directly within the Pathways Leaving Care Team/ Middlesbrough Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service.

The report within the pack detailed the support provided to our care experienced young people.

Rob Hamer, Interim Head of Service – Residential, Supported Accommodation, Resource & Care Leavers , was in attendance to provide any further clarity to the Board.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

22/9

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

ORDERED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

22/10

VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE

Victoria Banks, Virtual school Head was in attendance to provide an update to the Board in relation to the education of your children looked after.

AGREED

That the update be noted.

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Care Experienced Youth Voice

September - November 2023

Middlesbrough's Participation Team facilitates open, safe, and inclusive spaces for care experienced young people to tell us what is important to them. We capture this information and support them to tell you so you can improve the support they and others receive.

We support our care experienced young people/adults to be engaged in a variety of different ways.

'We Matter' (Middlesbrough's Children in Care Council)

- Care experienced young people aged 11 - 16 years meet fortnightly at Easterside Hub 17:00 - 18:30pm. We have five members
- They have fun, have a voice and create events to hear from their care experienced peers
- They share their views with key decision makers who act on what they say and positively change services to meet their needs
- They will support teams to act on what they say and help monitor the 'You Said, We Will, We Did' reporting tool
- We meet with young people at their residential homes

Older Care Experienced Young People

- We have three older care experienced young adults who have volunteer roles (two as Care Ambassadors) and they are co-opted onto the 'You Matter to Us - Corporate Parenting Board
- The Care Ambassadors support the work of 'We Matter' and support them to create engagement events for their peers
- We work with Pathways to support them with their events - Annual celebration event, Christmas dinner and we will engage with their care experienced young adults at the Forum

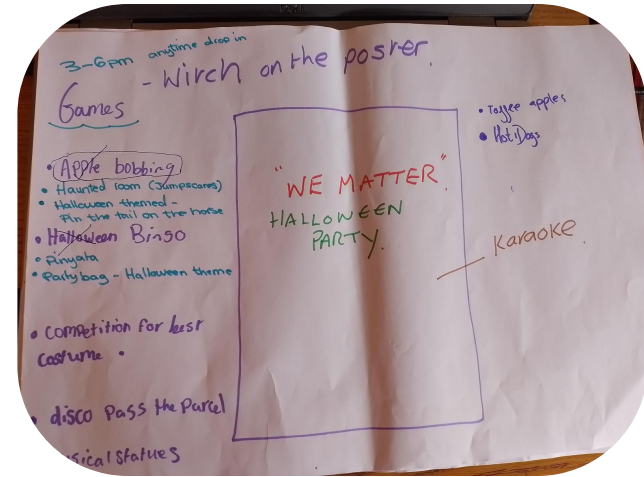
The groups are supported by

- **Kathy Peacock - Voice and Influence Manager**
- **Laurie Hunter - Communications and Engagement Officer**
- **Susie Blood - Democratic Services Officer**
- **Kelly Cowie - Independent Reviewing Officer (CiCC) and Youth Voice Practice Lead**
- **Adam Hart - CAMHS Head Start Apprentice and Care Ambassador**
- **Holly Sharp - Care Ambassador**
- **Caitlin O'Connor - Care Ambassador**

'We Matter'

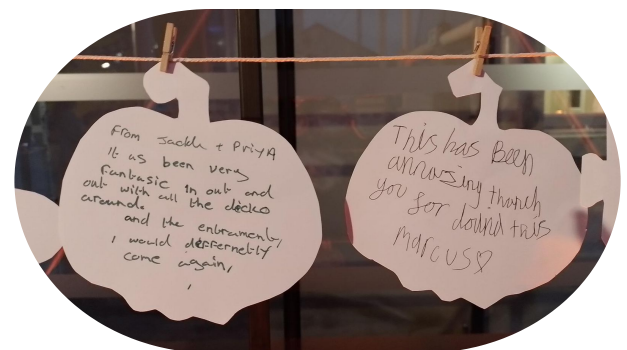
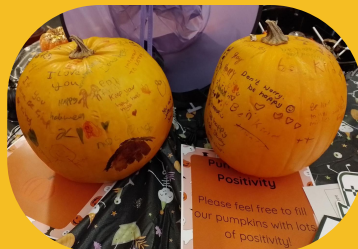
September 2023

- 5th September meeting - Priya started the group and Gemma McLaren came to visit the group. We planned the Teesside engagement event
- 14th September event at Teesside University - Ralph Presgrave ran a session on staying safe on line
- 19th September meeting - Designed the Halloween and Christmas flyer and wrote a thank you letter for the food donated at the football event



October 2023

- 3rd October - Catherine Prest (Fostering) talked to the group about meeting potential foster carers and delivering training to current carers
- 11th October - extra meeting with members of the Youth Council - look at being Volunteers
- 17th October - Rachel Harston came to the group to talk with them about what they would like to spend money on and she brought some pumpkins for them to decorate
- 27th October - 'We Matter' Halloween party. 49 young people came.



November 2023

- 14th November - Looked at what information they would want in their support workers personal profiles

Older Care Experienced Young People/Adults

July/September 2023

- In July engagement with residential services started and we visited the homes to discuss with staff our plans and focus for our engagement with their young people
- As a result we have started to engage with young people and will be putting in consistent engagement sessions with homes to ensure we capture the voice of every young person
- In addition we are working with our private placements to ensure that all our Middlesbrough young people are heard regardless of where they live
- In July after the last 'You Matter to Us' engagement event we went to the Pathway's 'Core Offer' launch event
- Late August, we attended the Regional Children in Care Council meeting and helped them plan the 1st November event
- Corporate Parenting Board meeting - Our new Care Ambassadors attended



October 2023

- Care Ambassadors start attending Pathways team meeting, they will go monthly
- 23rd October - Five young people met with Dawn Alaszewski and Sharon Hetherington to talk about their Journey with Pathways
- 26th October - Our Care Ambassadors presented at the Social Work Practice event



November 2023

- 1st November - Holly and Alisha came to the Regional Children In Care Council event, Dawn Alaszewski and Rob Hamer attended - Everyone made a pinky promise
- 9th November - Five older care experienced young people engaged with their Corporate Parents to plan actions following the information they gave at the 23rd Oct engagement event
- Holly is working with young people, Pathways and other provisions to design and develop a life skills course with accreditation

Care Experienced Youth Voice

Over the next few months we plan to ...

- Continue to work with the teams to promote the 'We Matter' group to increase membership and attendance at the engagement and fun events
- Have all our care experienced young people/adults set up as volunteers
- Create ASDAN awards to provide accreditation for their work and the young people they work with
- Work with the Commissioning team to create 'Young Commissioners'
- Meet more care experienced young people who live in residential care
- Support We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to work with the fostering service to talk with potential foster carers
- Involve We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to undertake Regional Children in Care Council work
- Hold our Christmas party for care experienced young people - 14th December 5 -7.30pm Riverside Stadium



For more information:

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OUR EXPERIENCES

ENGAGEMENT EVENT
23RD OCTOBER 2023

Introduction

Five care experienced young adults:

- Caitlin O'Connor, Alisha , Lily, Adam Hart and Holly Sharp

Met with Dawn Alaszewski (Interim Head of Service for Safeguarding and Care Planning/Child) and Sharon Hetherington (Service Manager - Residential Homes and Resources), to discuss their journey with Pathways.

Staff who were an attendance were, Rachael Todner, Lily Scott and Kathy Peacock.

What is going well?

Young people said they are having positive experiences with their Personal Advisors, these included: building up a good relationship with them, their worker is answering their phone, emailing back and sending messages ensuring they felt heard.

They said they are getting the correct support with transport to appointments, being offered financial support when needed and had help finding education, placements, jobs and other training opportunities.

Support from mental health worker for 18 plus has really helped strengthen the service

Setting up home is a good assets for Care Leavers and they are supported by PA's to spend this appropriately.

Senior management attending event and listening to the feedback

Providing relevant information to care leaver and discussing the care leaver offer

What is not going well?

Young people said they were unhappy with the number of changes of Social Workers/ Personal Advisors. They felt the handover to a new worker had not been happening which meant they have to keep repeating their story/journey, this was negatively impacting on their relationships with them.

Young people said they were unhappy with their plans for moving on and felt there was not enough planning. They felt they were not being valued or their needs were not being met. They felt they were being placed in unsafe accommodation and the providers were not meeting their needs.

Young people said they had a negative experience when it came to post 18 plans as they were unsure where they could move to or what financial support was available - this was due to lack of communication. They said they had a negative experience when it came to communication around what they can use their "setting up home grant" for, and not knowing what opportunities were available around bursaries for university and what other financial support they were entitled to. They expressed how difficult and stressful this was/is due to not knowing what their next steps were.

Future Ideas

We went on to discuss future ideas and what change they would like to see happen which were:

- Having earlier support to ensure we are in a better place before moving to the Pathways team
- Having good communication around what we are entitled to, we suggested having training put into place for this to be a success
- Having a positive plan around post 18
- Putting money, we use for social groups into other areas such as housing, so we have a safe space to move into instead of an unsafe area and the money to be beneficial instead of a waste
- Social groups to have a meaning behind them
- Personal advisors to be allocated before 18 this is to build up that relationship so they can have a clear path post 18
- Social worker to understand that they need to listen to both side of stories during crisis and placement breakdown.

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I Pledge to Change

Pledge	Officer
Social groups to have a meaning being them- continue working with care ambassadors to hear voices from older care experienced young people.	Laurie Hunter Communications and Engagement Officer
Proactively work with mental health professionals in order to meet with the needs of the young people who are affected by the mental health issues.	Zafar Uddin Executive Member for Children's Services
Work with housing providers to provide more housing	Chris Cooke The Mayor
Implement training for social care staff to be lead by young people.	Joe Tynan Executive Director of Children's Services
To explore care ambassadors' apprenticeships.	Sharron Herrington Service Manager- Pathways
To support the services to progress with all of the future ideas that have been shared by our young people.	Dawn Alaszewski Interim Director of Children's Care
To continue working with our young people to hear what is working and what needs to change.	Dawn Alaszewski Interim Director of Children's Care
Ensure Pathways plans are aspirational supporting young people to have a clear vision in all areas. Capturing clear views and wishes setting realistic steps to achieve.	Gemma McLaren Team Manager- Pathways
Care Ambassadors are very important to help on the awareness and leadership and feedback.	
That our care experienced young people continue to feel part of decision making, by attending meetings, feeling their voices are heard and influencing change.	Susie Blood Democratic Services Officer and Volunteer to 'We Matter'

The way we engage with our young people and ensure young people have a greater influence on decisions that affect them.	Adam Hart Headstart South Tees Apprentice
To be on time and to make sure we get full views of all young people.	Lilly Scott. Personal Advisor

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