

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:

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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.

