

**From:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

**To:** Corporate Parenting Panel – 18 September 2017

**Subject:** **CORPORATE PARENTING CHALLENGE CARDS**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Electoral Divisions:** All

**Summary:** This report provides Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of progress made on previous and provides detail of current challenges.

**Recommendation:** Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** the progress made on challenges made by our young people and **ATTEND** the charity fundraiser 'Virtual Triathlon to Calais' on Thursday 26 October 2017.

## **1. Challenge Card Update**

### **1.1 Young Adults Council (YAC) would like senior staff, members and corporate parents to support the upcoming YAC charity fundraiser 'Virtual Triathlon to Calais' on Thursday 26 October 2017 by attending the event and helping to raise sponsorship**

The invitation to corporate parents to support this event has been well received and strong commitment has been given. The event has been promoted at member induction events, Corporate Parenting Panel and noted in the Director of Specialist Children's Services (SCS) newsletter that is distributed to all SCS staff. The YAC will continue to promote the date and encourage staff and members to attend the event. A meeting with the Umbrella Centre has been arranged for early September to look at setting up a Just Giving Page for sponsorship.

At the previous Corporate Parenting Panel meeting in July, a request was made that there be increased communication between SCS and foster carers to assist better understanding of the purpose of Challenge Cards. A number of actions were undertaken to fulfil this request including:

- The purpose of the Challenge Card and the associated process to be highlighted in the SCS newsletter to inform and update all SCS staff. This has been shared in the September newsletter.
- The Virtual School Kent (VSK) participation apprentices will ensure that this is included in the newly qualified social workers induction training on 'The Voice of the Child'.
- The VSK participation apprentices attend Foster Carer Support Groups and they will include in their discussions the process for looked after children to produce challenges to corporate parents.

- The VSK participation newsletter for Children in Care (CiC) is produced three times a year and will include details of the challenge card and the process involved. This is sent to foster carers and CiC.
- The Challenge Cards and their importance for CiC will be included in the newsletter for foster carers and will promote the benefits of children and young people attending the participation group meetings and days out.

It was also requested at the July Corporate Parenting Panel meeting that the Young Lives Foundation (YLF) be involved with the Challenge Card process and this has been agreed with the Director of Specialist Children's Services. Discussions will be undertaken with YLF to ensure that they are aware of the process of the Challenge Cards. A key aspect of the Challenge Cards is to create a better environment to provide improved care for all looked after children. YLF will be able to promote Challenge Cards with the young people who use their services; this in turn should support and contribute to improvements to the care children and young people receive. The YLF representative of the Corporate Parenting Panel has been provided with the outline for raising a challenge.

## 2. Current Challenges

- 2.1 The current challenge has had a positive response. The children and young people had a fun day during the summer and provided feedback to Corporate Parents on issues that are important to them. These issues may also be considered for the challenge cards when the Councils meet again in the autumn.

## 3. Recommendations

3.1 Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** the progress made on challenges made by our young people and **ATTEND** the charity fundraiser 'Virtual Triathlon to Calais' on Thursday 26 October 2017.

## 4. Background Documents

None

## 5. Report Author

Gemma O'Grady  
 Participation Co-ordinator, Virtual School Kent  
 07912 596646  
[gemma.o'grady@kent.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.o'grady@kent.gov.uk)

### Lead Director

Philip Segurola  
 Director, Specialist Children's Services  
 03000 413120  
[Philip.segurola@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.segurola@kent.gov.uk)