

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 - 9 November 2017

Subject: **CORPORATE PARENTING CHALLENGE CARDS**

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report provides Members with an overview of progress made on previous and current challenges to Corporate Parents.

Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** the Challenge Card progress to date.

1. New Challenge Card Issued

1.1 The Young Adult Council (YAC) met on 5 October 2017 and the following new challenge was raised, discussed and agreed at the meeting:

When leaving foster care, young people still often have to pack up all or some of their belongings in black sacks when they move to live independently or semi-independently. This can make them feel particularly worthless at what already could be a difficult time for them. It was also thought the use of black sacks could signify that they are portrayed as 'rubbish' and of little value.

YAC would like their Corporate Parents to agree to a 'no bin bags' policy and to ensure that all young people are provided with a suitcase or appropriate containers for moving home to enable them to pack up their belongings.

1.2 YAC have therefore asked that this challenge could be taken to the next Children in Care (CiC) Team Meeting for discussion and further action.

1.3 This challenge was also discussed at the Our Children and Young People's Council (OCYPC)/Super Council meetings in October to see if our younger children have experienced the same issue when moving placements.

2. Challenge Card Update

2.1 With reference to the challenge card issued on 5 October 2017, considerable activity has already taken place.

- Challenge card discussed at the Children in Care managers meeting on 17 October
- Researched current policy and training, which evidenced that it clearly states in the Foster Carers Handbook that bin bags should not be used. In addition, this area is also covered in the 'Skills to Foster' Training sessions on Day 3
- Head of Fostering Service will look at reviewing and relaunching the 'No Bin Bags' ethos ensuring high profile. In conjunction with this, develop an escalation process for those foster carers who do not comply
- Where young people have a lot of personal belongings, they may need to use bags to pack up their belongings. It was agreed at the Children in Care meeting that, where necessary, appropriate moving boxes would be used along with bags of other colours so there would be no association with black bin bags.

3. Challenge Cards Update

3.1 Previous Challenge:

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

- 3.2 The invitation to Corporate Parents to support this event was well received and strong commitment was given. The event was promoted at Member Inductions, Corporate Parenting Panel and also noted in the Director of Specialist Children's Services (SCS) newsletter which was distributed to all SCS staff.

4. Other Updates

- 4.1 It was requested and agreed at the July Corporate Parenting Panel meeting that the Young Lives Foundation (YLF) be involved with the Challenge Card process.
- 4.2 The Virtual School Kent (VSK) Participation Team has arranged to attend the YLF Advocacy Team Meeting on 13 December to present and ensure that they are aware of the process around how the Challenge Cards work. This will help ensure that YLF will be able to promote Challenge Cards with the young people who use their services; which in turn should support and contribute to improvements to the care children and young people receive.

5. Recommendation

<p>5.1 Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to NOTE the Challenge Card progress to date.</p>

6. Background Documents

None

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