

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education.

To: Corporate Parenting Panel - 29 January 2018

Subject: **Corporate Parenting Challenge Cards**

Classification: Unrestricted

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 consider and comment on the Challenge Card progress to date.

1. New Challenge Card Issued

- 1.1 A challenge was issued by the Young Adult Council (YAC) in June 2017 – **‘if a young person over school leaving age decided to be fully independent and work full time paying their own rent, would KCC as a 'Corporate Parent' act as the young person's guarantor?’** This was looked into and the response to this challenge was ‘KCC are not able to offer this but robust plans and procedures are in place to assist young people e.g. revised young person's pathway plan, transitions workshops, young person's work books’.
- 1.2 In July 2017, members of the VSK Participation Team, along with officers from the Care Leavers 18+ Service and the Assistant Director, Corporate Parenting attended the launch of CentrePoint's research on care leavers and housing – [‘From care to where?’](#) The key recommendations for policy and practice that resulted from the day are summarised in this report – [Views from the frontline: what do young people need to move on from care successfully?](#)
- 1.3 One of the recommendations in the report identified the need for Care Leavers to have sufficient money to pay rent and a deposit; and that local authorities should act as guarantors (as care leavers often do not have family members who can do this). The recommendation advises that a clear contract should be established which sets out the maximum guarantee they are willing to provide plus deposit terms and conditions.
- 1.4 The Young Adult Council (YAC) reviewed the findings of the report at their meeting on the 2 November 2017. In line with the CentrePoint report recommendation, the YAC has requested that this challenge is revisited and consideration given to reviewing whether anything further that could be done to support Care Leavers with the need to secure a rent guarantor. This would be in addition to the deposit and rent in advance which is already funded for care leavers.
- 1.5 In response Officers of the Council are currently seeking further legal advice about this matter, and details of any financial implications are also being explored. An update to this Challenge will be presented at the March meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

2. Challenge Cards Update

3.1 Previous Challenge:

No Bin Bag Policy

When moving or leaving foster care provision, young people have to pack up all of their belongings when they move placement or go to live independently or semi-independently. The challenge issued suggests that black bags are used on occasion. 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 review the ‘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.

3.2 The Young Adult Council was updated at their meeting on the 2 November 2017 with the information discussed at the Children In Care (CIC) meeting on the 17 October 2017. They were informed that there was already a policy in place that stated that bin bags should not be used to move young people and that this information was reiterated in the Skills to Foster Training. The Young Adult Council were advised that this policy was currently being reviewed and relaunched with a higher profile. The Young Adult Council reported that they were very pleased that the issue was being looked into again to ensure that this issue does not happen in Kent.

3.3 Previous Challenge:

YAC would like Senior Staff, Members and Corporate Parents to support the upcoming charity fundraiser Virtual Triathlon.

3.4 YAC reported that they were very happy with the support given this year to their annual fundraiser. The day was very successful with £810.47 raised in sponsorship. YAC would like to thank Officers and Elected Members for their support and will be looking for a new charity to support in 2018

3. Other Updates

4.1 There are no further updates at this time.

4. Recommendation

5.1 Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to CONSIDER AND COMMENT on the Challenge Care progress to date

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6. Background documents: none