

Corporate Parenting Board

28th April 2022

The Promise

Choose an item.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s):

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

The board are being asked to approve the new Promise, which has been reviewed and written by a care experienced young person, who has collaborated with other young people and corporate parents.

We currently talk about 'The Pledge' but propose that we should refer to this as 'The Promise' going forward, so that consistent language is used, making it easier for children, young people and their families to understand.

It will also make it easier for corporate parents to understand the detail in The Promise, having this as a framework to work with.

Reason for Recommendation:

1. Executive Summary

The Pledge was last reviewed with young people when we were Dorset County Council and since then, the language we use and the guidance which directs our work, has changed. It is therefore necessary to review this document.

Dorset Council refers to The Promise in the Corporate Parenting Strategy which uses different language to the current pledge, and we want to make sure that these are better aligned.

2. Financial Implications

None

3. Well-being and Health Implications

None

4. Climate implications

None

5. Other Implications

NA

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

NA

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 [Web link to 'Our Pledge'](#)

Appendix 2 The new Promise

9. Background Papers

Dorset's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-2023

10. Context

10.1 The Pledge is a commitment to the children and young people in the care of Dorset Council, setting out the help and support that is available and what

they can expect from their corporate parents. Having a pledge and a promise is confusing, especially as they use different language. For example, in The Pledge there is a section called 'moving on', yet our corporate parenting strategy (pg6) could be referring to having 'a safe and stable home' or 'work together and guide them into adulthood'. We are proposing that this area of The Promise is called 'Supporting you to be steady and settled as an adult'.

10.2 A care experienced young person has been working on the new proposed promise. They have reviewed The Pledge, advised on improvements, and engaged with other young people about whether it feels right. They have also collaborated with Louise Drury, Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers and Kaye Wright, Youth Voice Manager.

10.3 These are the new proposed areas of The Promise, which now includes health as it was in The Pledge but missing from The Promise.

10.4 We promise to;

- Help to keep you safe
- Support you with your health and wellbeing
- Support you to live your life by providing you with opportunities and activities, and celebrating your achievements
- Help you to have aspirations for your future
- Supporting you to be steady and settled as an adult
- Listen to you and involve you
- Work with you
- Keep our word, be honest, kind and reliable

11. Monitoring of the Promise

11.1 The annual Satisfaction Survey will be aligned to The Promise so that Corporate Parenting Board are able to ensure they are keeping their commitment. The analysis of the findings will identify areas for improvement and continued collaboration and co-production with children and young people.

11.2 The principles of The Promise could become the framework for discussions with the Children in Care Council and the Care Leaver Forum, including the work of the Care Leaver Delivery Group.

- 11.3 At informal corporate parenting board, children and young people could ask officers and members to tell them how well we are doing at delivering The Promise so that we can work on improvements with them.

12. Recommendations

- 12.1 We no longer refer to The Pledge. Our Promise, is our pledge.
- 12.2 The new refreshed Promise is approved and adopted by Corporate Parenting Board
- 12.3 The Promise becomes a framework for the Council to measure itself against and the annual Satisfaction Survey, becomes one of the tools which will allow us to do this.
- 12.4 Members are asked to oversee one or more of the areas of The Promise.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.