

**Report of Rachel Farnham, Head of Children's Social Care, Children and Young People's Service, DCC**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 This report is to provide an update on the Know, What, When Project to members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The younger children from the Children in Care Council identified a need for them to be able to reassure children coming into Local Authority Care.
- 3 We wanted to use their own experiences to be able to explain to children what happens when they come into Local Authority care.
- 4 We wanted to provide reassurance recognising some of the worries children might have when they come into Local Authority Care.
- 5 We spent time during the school summer holidays with a group of eight younger children, planning and developing the Know, What and When leaflet. The young people wrote in their own words what they wanted to tell children coming into Local Authority Care and drew pictures to illustrate what happens and how this can feel.
- 6 The Service then spent time looking over a draft version of the Know, What, When Guide with the children. Staff from Investors in Children then worked on the final version of the Know, What and When Guide with the children.
- 7 The children and young people then completed a voice over of the guide.
- 8 The guide will be available in printed copy and online for all children coming into care from March 2024.

- 9 In August 2024, we will review the Know, What, When Guide, gaining the views of children coming into Local Authority Care who have been given this and adapting the guide if needed.

### **Recommendations**

- 10 Corporate Parenting are asked to:
  - (a) Note the final copy of the Know, What, When Guide.
  - (b) Agree that this guide can be shared with children coming into Local Authority Care.

## **Background**

- 11 Corporate Parenting saw the need for supporting children coming into Local Authority Care using the experiences of other children.
- 12 The younger group from the Children in Care Council agreed that children would benefit from their support when they came into Local Authority Care.
- 13 As a Care Leaver Service we understand the needs of children coming into Local Authority Care and how ensuring this is well supported can have an impact on outcomes for young people leaving care.

## **Main implications**

- 14 We are able to better support children coming into Local Authority Care and the perspective of children who have already experienced this, they know how this can feel.
- 15 The additional impact of this has been allowing children to think about and process their own experiences and gain a better understanding of what has happened in their own lives.

## **Conclusion**

- 16 The Know, What, When Guide should be a useful tool to allow children coming into Local Authority Care to understand what will initially happen from the voice and understanding of children who have already experienced this.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications.

### **Finance**

The only financial implication is the printing cost of the leaflets.

### **Consultation**

Children have developed this and been consulted throughout to ensure they are happy with the finished product.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Although the guidance is targeted at younger children it can also be adapted and translated for older children and for those with English not being their first language.

### **Climate Change**

The only impact on climate change would be the printing of the leaflets however an online copy will be used whenever possible.

### **Human Rights**

The Right to a Family Life is supported by this guidance as it includes information relating to the child's time with their birth family and how they will be cared for within a foster family.

### **Crime and Disorder**

We know that supporting children well when they are in care so that they understand what is happening and can emotionally manage this can reduce them being involved in criminal activity into adulthood.

### **Staffing**

The guidance will be shared with the children by their social worker who will already be allocated.

### **Accommodation**

No additional accommodation is required.

### **Risk**

This guidance will only be shared with a child when their social worker has assessed this is appropriate and it does not add to their anxiety or worries.

### **Procurement**

No implications.