

Corporate Parenting Panel

16 December 2023

Care Leavers Service - Positivitree



Report of Lesley Baldry, Service Manager, Care Leavers, UASC, Permanence and Adoption, Children and Young People's Service, Durham County Council.

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report is to explain the National Bench Marking Forum Positivitree campaign and how Durham Care Leavers Service have put this into action.

Executive summary

- 2 The touring tree will be taken to Corporate Parenting Panel by the care leavers service management team and young people on 16 December 2023, in order to help the panel, understand the purpose of the tree and gain pledges.
- 3 At each event held at Sherburn and Stanley Hubs, the touring tree will be present, its purpose will be explained, and further pledges gained.
- 4 The touring tree will travel to County Hall in January 2024 to gain pledges from senior managers of all service areas based in County Hall.
- 5 Throughout the first few months of 2024 the touring tree will visit businesses, employers and leisure facilities throughout County Durham.
- 6 Young people will meet at the Stanley Hub monthly to review pledges and identify which are most important to young people.
- 7 Feedback will be fed into the regional board by the care leavers service manager, this will begin on 27 November 2023 at the next regional board meeting.

Recommendations

- 8 Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to:
 - (a) Note the update of the Care Leavers Service work with the Positivitree
 - (b) Make their own pledges on the day.

Background

- 9 The National Bench Marking Forum started the Positivitree campaign as a way of raising awareness of the needs of Care Leavers and raising aspirations for Care Leavers in their communities to mark their 20th anniversary.
- 10 The Care Leavers Service management team attended a national event in Birmingham as part of this event signed up to be part of Positivitree.
- 11 We worked as a management group and with young people to decide how and when we would implement Positivitree in Durham.
- 12 We decided to buy an apple tree to plant which would symbolise our Local Offer growing and a smaller wooden tree which we could take with us to gain pledges from staff within the local authority and to providers, leisure outlets, businesses and employers.
- 13 On 26 October we held an event at Sherburn Hub where care leavers planted a tree in the garden and we started to gain pledges.

Main implications

- 14 The use of the Positivitree is already raising awareness of the Local Offer and growing the offer, pledges have already been made by:
 - (a) Supported living providers;
 - (b) Staff within children's services;
 - (c) Young people themselves.
- 15 Young people have been involved in developing the Positivitree project from the beginning and are invested in being part of reviewing the offers and taking the "touring tree" out into the community.
- 16 Ideas generated from pledges are being considered within the Care Leavers Service and by senior managers.
- 17 Ideas from the pledges will be taken to the regional board to consider whether they can be taken up regionally.

Conclusion

- 18 The Positivitree is working well within Durham, our young people have really bought into the idea, and this is being actively supported by senior management.

Author

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications, this project has been agreed by the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum legal department.

Finance

Any high-level financial implications of the pledges given will be considered via senior management and CSCMT.

Consultation

Young people both nationally and locally were consulted in the development of this project.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There is equal access for all care leavers to any of the local offer.

Climate Change

A tree has been planted and the touring tree is re cycled.

Human Rights

This fits well with Article 2 – Right to Life.

Crime and Disorder

No implications.

Staffing

Staff from the Care Leavers Service are supporting young people with this project.

Accommodation

The care leaver Hubs are used for a base for the trees.

Risk

There is no risk to young people as the care leavers management team will risk assess where the touring tree goes and ensure young people are safely supported by a staff member at all times.

Procurement

No implications.