

Corporate Parenting Panel

21 February 2025

Supply Packs



Report of Rachel Farnham, Head of Children's Social Care, DCC

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides an update to the Corporate Parenting Panel on the progress of the supply packs created by the Children in Care Council, with the support of Children's Social Care.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Children in Care Council was granted funding by the Corporate Parenting Panel to create 150 supply packs for children entering care. The purpose of these packs is to provide a resource that supports Durham children who are placed into care under emergency circumstances. These packs aim to offer the children something personal to them, providing comfort and support during a challenging time.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to:
 - Note the contents of the report for information.

Background

- 4 In April 2023, young people attended Corporate Parenting Panel with the with the ask of £7,600 to fund the care packs. At the Corporate Parenting Panel in May 2023, the Chair noted that in respect of the funding, Members had provided contributions from their budgets for approx. £18,500. The Senior Partnerships Officer noted that Luke had referred to packs for those exiting care and suggested that any surplus monies could be used for those packs. The Panel agreed to this.
- 5 Once funding was granted, the team led by the Children in Care Council procured items for sixty bags. These bags were designed to cater to children of various age groups and genders. The bags were packed in August 2024 by children in care and Investing for Children and the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service. The bags were subsequently distributed to the Families First team and the Emergency Duty Team (EDT).
- 6 In September 2024, a team manager event was held where information about the supply packs were shared, and the packs were distributed to the various teams, to ensure that all teams had access to this useful resource.
- 7 Feedback from several social work teams has been positive. Children and young people have found these packs to be useful and were extremely pleased with the contents.

Lessons Learnt

- 8 The execution of the packing and distribution of the bags has been a learning experience for all involved. We will ensure that on the day the supply packs are assembled, there is more structure to ensure everyone is aware of their role.
- 9 The distribution of the bags will be carried out more efficiently, with each team having a dedicated number of bags for each service area.

Next steps

- 10 We have £7000 of funding remaining, which will allow us to create an additional 70 packs. We are currently seeking further feedback from children and young people to support the development of these packs.
- 11 The plan is to arrange another day in February 2025 to assemble the additional packs, which will be distributed in early 2025. We will then seek feedback from children, young people, and professionals to explore the impact of these packs on our children.

- 12 In Spring 2025 we will be conducting a formal review of the project and gathering feedback from the children and young people, carers and professionals. We will establish how many packs overall have been distributed and the impact that these have had, which will be formally fed back into corporate parenting panel.

Author

Rachael Riley

Tel: 03000 264893

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

No legal implications.

Finance

Funding was allocated from elected members budgets

Consultation

took place with young people to establish what the bags would contain

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not affected.

Human Rights

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Crime and Disorder

Not affected.

Staffing

Not affected.

Accommodation

Not affected.

Risk

Not affected.

Procurement

Not affected.