

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NYCC LAC MEMBERS GROUP

1.0	FOREWARD BY THE CHAIR.....	2
2.0	INTRODUCTION	3
3.0	WORK CARRIED OUT.....	3
	Health and Wellbeing: Principle 1	3
	Youth Voice: Principle 2	5
	Youth Participation: Principle 3	5
	Working Together: Principle 4	7
	Ambition for Children: Principle 5	8
	Safeguarding and Permanence: Principle 6	9
	Transitions: Principle 7	10
	Missing Children.....	11
	Youth Justice and LAC Offending	11
	Regulation 44 Visits	12
4.0	MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	13
5.0	ELECTED MEMBERS AS CORPORATE PARENTS.....	14

1.0 FORWARD BY THE CHAIR

- 1.1 Children in care are some of the most vulnerable members of society. Often they have suffered traumatic events which have led to them being placed in care and lack the family support networks that others might take for granted.
- 1.2 Children in care and those leaving care who have experienced early childhood trauma face a variety of lower outcomes when compared with their peers – in education, in health, in employment, in the justice system, in mental health and these outcomes tend to follow children into adulthood as well.
- 1.3 The term ‘Corporate Parenting’ emphasises that we should have the same interest in and aspirations for children and young people in care (or leaving care) as we would for our own children. Statistics show that in most areas North Yorkshire is functioning well and that we are meeting or exceeding national targets. Reassuring though that is, we should never be satisfied with just doing well in comparison. We want a North Yorkshire service that improves their circumstances and their wellbeing and safeguards them from harm. We should be ambitious for our young people to reach their individual full potential.
- 1.4 There is optimism that we are coming out of one of the most difficult times for all parts of society. The pandemic has touched all of us in one way or another. One of the things as corporate parents we look for is reassurance that we have retained the high levels of support in the face of all the challenges the pandemic has brought. The group has heard some amazing things about how our young people, our front line and support staff have coped and adapted to the challenges.
- 1.5 Regardless of how well we look after the children under our care, there will come a time when they have to transition to independence. Going forward to independent living is a big step for any young person, but it is especially challenging at the moment for young people leaving care as they often start that journey earlier than their peers. No young person leaving our care should be alone. As corporate parents we must be assured they are safe and that they have access to advice, and the support we can give them as they need to be fully prepared for adulthood.
- 1.6 At the very heart of our Corporate Parenting Strategy is a pledge to involve the children we care for and care leavers in all the decisions that affect their lives. We are committed to championing their rights, asking what the children and young people need, listening to what they tell us, and taking action, whilst also ensuring they are made aware of the outcomes of decisions made.
- 1.7 Our common purpose, and obligation, is to do our utmost to achieve all these expectations.
- 1.8 The Looked After Members Group will play its part. We are blessed in North Yorkshire to have members and officers that are genuinely interested and passionately committed to our young people’s agenda. It is a forum for elected members and relevant officers and partner agencies to come together and offer

challenge and support around services for looked after children and care leavers; in short, helping us be the corporate parent I know we all aspire to be.

1.9 It is my privilege to chair the Looked After Children's Members Group and to present this report of our work.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Local consultation with the children we care for highlighted the areas they believe could be improved: communicating why the person has been taken into care; frequent changes in social workers; the feeling of not being listened to; and decisions being made without them being consulted.

2.2 In essence, this is what the refreshed Looked after Children Strategy 2018-2021, adopted in 2018, entitled "We care because you matter" and The Local Offer for Care Leavers set out to achieve.

2.3 The evidence group members have seen over the last two years tells us this has made such a big difference to young people's lives and how we support them. This report will highlight the work carried out by the group:

- assessing how successful the authority appears to have been in moving the aims of the strategy forward.
- How we are approaching the positives and the challenges facing the children who we care for
- Looking at local issues - and national ones where relevant - in relation to children in care that have emerged over the last two years. There are references in the report to how well and flexibly young people and services have responded under Covid19 restrictions and constraints.
- The questions all this poses about the status of corporate parenting within the authority.

3.0 WORK CARRIED OUT

3.1 Much of the group's work is now centred on the corporate parenting strategy which set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to children in care and young people. Ordinarily, at each of our meetings we would review performance against at least one of these seven principles.

Health and Wellbeing: Principle 1

To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people

3.2 Children and young people who are in our care have the same core health needs as other young people, but their backgrounds and experiences are likely to make them particularly vulnerable to poorer health outcomes. Having become looked after, they sometimes experience a number of placement and school moves, which can mean that health issues and health promotion, before

entry to care or accommodation, including routine medical health checks and health promotion initiatives, are overlooked.

- 3.3 Children and young people in our care have particular physical, emotional and behavioural needs related to their earlier experiences. These earlier experiences have an influence on brain development and attachment behaviour. The rates of emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties are 4 to 5 times higher amongst children in care and young people than the wider population.
- 3.4 The group has a close working relationship with the designated professional and specialist nursing team engaged by the North Yorkshire CCG's to undertake health assessments. Staff from these teams regularly attend our meetings to talk through issues and performance levels.
- 3.5 At one such meeting in January this year, we heard how the service had coped under Covid. Some key headlines:
- Regular virtual meetings of local and national designated professionals as part of the new ways of working have become embedded in response to the most surges in COVID 19 cases and subsequent 'lockdown' restrictions.
 - In the early weeks of the pandemic it was particularly useful to hear what was happening in the South, where COVID was initially more prevalent, as this helped prepare for the challenges ahead and to mitigate against risks
 - develop guidance on undertaking health assessments during the pandemic whilst ensuring the safety of children, carers and health professionals.
 - The use of video assessments, but also conducting safe face-to face where this is appropriate and/or required
 - Feedback from Children and Young People: of particular interest is the feedback from young people that they prefer the remote method of engaging with their assessments. Moving forward, this is something that will be taken into consideration by the Designated Professionals, relevant health care providers and the local authority when considering utilising different ways of working with some of our young people who are difficult to engage.
 - The Designated Nurses produce a fortnightly 'COVID bulletin' for relevant health care providers across North Yorkshire and York. The bulletin aims to summarise the vast amount of information that is relevant to safeguarding and looked after children, ensuring practitioners receive appropriate updates and share good practice.
 - Going forward, feedback from the children affected had prompted development work on a hybrid service model of face-to-face and remote assessments.
- 3.6 Members expressed the following views:
- The commissioning /provider arrangements and working relationships appeared sound and effective.

- The service has responded professionally and effectively to the most recent challenges. The dedication of all staff in this area is clearly evident.
- There appeared to be a good understanding of the context and the scale of the requirement in respect of LAG children in our care and health needs.
- Non-health information is being properly included in the assessment to provide a more rounded picture of the person's needs and experiences.
- Performance levels regarding assessments undertaken within proscribed time limits are generally good, but areas of improvement, for example around immunisation and dental assessments, are recognised and being attended to.
- The key elements of the service and its processes were being adhered to before the pandemic and have been maintained during it. This is ensuring the authority is meeting its responsibilities. The adaption of the process to include social context and reflect local circumstances in the assessment is welcomed.

3.7 There are, however, challenges:

- Members noted in particular that dealing with the volume of cases of children placed within the county from other areas was continuing to be significant, which is an additional burden for health colleagues, who explained the staffing and capacity issues – particularly regarding paediatrician expertise - has occasionally affected performance levels.
- The rate of children in our care young people getting dental assessments has been a concern for some time; the impact of the pandemic has heightened that concern and is shared by members and officers alike. Cllr John Ennis, Chair of Scrutiny of Health Committee has kindly agreed to highlight this as part of his committee's work on the availability of NHS dentistry across the county.

Youth Voice: Principle 2

To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings

Youth Participation: Principle 3

To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people

3.8 Progress against these two principles has been reviewed twice over the last two years.

3.9 The pandemic has been a very challenging period for our Children in Care Council, who are now NY Care Champions following a vote by the new members. Feedback is sought regularly by the authority and used to inform planning and development of our service delivery.

- 3.10 The service is making general improvements in the way we involve young people, so they not only feel comfortable expressing their views but that we always feed back to the young people concerned with an explanation of how far and to what extent their views had influenced the subsequent action taken. The approach to what we do should make it easier for them to contribute. The NY voice service employs a variety of methods and structures to engage with and hear the views of all young people in our care. This includes creative approaches such as art and music workshops, in which language and cultural barriers can be removed through young people expressing themselves in creative ways.
- 3.11 There is so much good work that could be outlined here but one in particular exciting new development is worthy of mention. An exciting new project for the coming year is the successful commissioning of Mind of My Own Apps, for which a 3-year contract was signed this year. The apps allow children and young people to send messages directly to their workers on any subject they wish, such as giving their views for a meeting, sharing good news, or reporting a concern. The apps are co-produced with young people, and our own young people supported the review of current processes, which led to the decision to seek the technology.
- 3.12 Due to go live in June 2021, Mind of My Own should have a significant positive impact on our communication with our children and young people, giving them more access to their workers and more of a say in the services we deliver to them. The virtual nature of app technology also lends itself well to use by out of area young people and those who have additional communication needs.
- 3.13 All in all, the view of the group was that the outline of action taken, particularly in the summary of work undertaken, represented solid progress against the corporate strategy principles. Information provided to the group demonstrated a comprehensive and impressive account of how far the Authority had progressed in terms of improving youth participation and youth voice for looked after children.
- 3.14 In terms of future work, the group will monitor whether the work on case reviews results in higher levels of young people's attendance.
- 3.15 The Care Champions have many plans for the coming year, which as discussed have been unfortunately delayed by the Covid restrictions and impact on young people. These will include, when time allows:
- A series of peer mentoring events for younger children in our care around issues such as Mental Health, Transition to Leaving Care, and Prejudice in Education.
 - A campaign aimed at CYPs staff on what makes a 'good move' for looked after young people moving home to new placements.
 - A celebration event for children, young people, and staff alike.

Working Together: Principle 4

To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners

- 3.16 The work on this area by the group focused on Fostering. Support is provided in three main ways; individually, Peer to Peer or in groups. It is very important that there is some setting where it is safe for Foster Carers to be able to 'vent' their emotions; this has been recognised as a means to assist with reducing the risk of 'compassion fatigue'.
- 3.17 Overall, members found evidence of good support for Peer to Peer arrangements, support groups and working with Foster Carer Associations are all key elements of how NYCC helps to support foster carers.
- 3.18 In terms of partnership arrangements, the partnership working between the Local Authority and District Councils is improving outcomes for young people particularly in relation to housing, employment and leisure opportunities.
- 3.19 The service has appropriate working agreements with key agencies such as the Police, CAMHS, Health, Probation and Schools. The local offer, therefore, includes relevant services provided by other organisations to ensure a coordinated approach.
- 3.20 Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the adjustments made have ensured we maintain the strong performance in these areas. Through innovative and creative working, across boundaries and with partners, we are supporting families and the staff who work with them in a flexible way.
- 3.21 Picking out a few examples where we have done this :
- Online platforms for foster training
 - EPeps -a great example of working virtually across boundaries
 - A webinar for foster carers
 - Carers have access to good connectivity and an IT buddy so they don't get left behind
- 3.22 The group singles out for special mention "Mockingbird" an alternative way of delivering foster care through supporting a close network of foster families to work together to both build meaningful relationships and to promote peer support for both the carers and the young people. This has adapted to working remotely to provide emotional and practical support to foster families. It must help increase foster carers and staff morale knowing that they do not work in isolation and that issues and problems can be resolved collaboratively.
- 3.23 Another area of member interest has been No Wrong Door. This clearly shows how it goes from strength to strength - an example of partnership working which has been successful in helping reduce offending behaviour amongst our young people and help them achieve safer lives

Ambition for Children: Principle 5

To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people

- 3.24 Educational achievement is one of the most widely acknowledged areas where, statistically, children in care can perform lower than their peers - in a way that is materially damaging to their prospects. Children in care are also five times more likely to face exclusion from school than their peers.
- 3.25 Children and young people receive good support around achievement and progress through our Virtual School and Care Leaver team. The Virtual School works closely with the LAC and Safeguarding Teams to ensure children and young people make good educational progress at school or other provision since being in care. The impact of the continuing support can be seen in the direction of travel of attainment and progress across all Key Stages for children who have been in care for at least 12 months.
- 3.26 A dedicated Virtual School supports and meets the needs of Children in care and out of education. Every year members review the Annual report which highlights the work that the Virtual School is undertaking to provide support to children in care – providing a summary of attainment and progress at all key levels of their academic career.
- 3.27 All the support we offer our children is based on a core set of principles & promises that outline what our children want. Our ‘promise’ to Children in Care and Care Leavers underpins everything that we do. This is no different for the Virtual School. Practically everything the Virtual School does to support our Looked after Children is driven by our ambition to provide young people with the support they deserve.
- 3.28 Members were pleased and impressed with the range of activity undertaken, which they agreed reflected well on the virtual school’s determination to go “above and beyond” in supporting children in our care both inside and outside of the educational setting.
- 3.29 The group will soon hear more in detail from the Virtual Head when it looks at the most recent Annual Report. We know that The Virtual School has continued to work closely with teams and multiagency partners to increase the life-chances of our Looked after Children by providing our children in care with opportunities and experiences that we would want for our own children. This includes working closely with the Leaving Care and Opportunities Teams to support young people transitioning from care. As is widely recognised, this year has not been a ‘normal’ year for school. With Covid-19, the first lockdown and the extended closure of schools, the 2019/20 examinations window was effectively ‘closed’. As a result teacher assessments and predicated grades were used as a basis for pupils attainment, rather than exams. Therefore, no Early Years, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 or and Progress 8 information is available. Where data is available, North Yorkshire has seen an encouraging development compared to last year, with the proportion of children achieving at least 5 GCSE grade 4 to 9 including English & Maths has increased from

8.3% in 2018/19 to 17.6% in 2019/20, the attainment 8 figure was 15 in 18/19 and is 14.8 19/20

Members reviewed:

- The training and resources made available and provided to schools and other settings.
- How children and young people were supported directly
- Events and trips to encourage disadvantaged learners to make the most of their education.
- The impact of the Virtual School on disadvantaged pupil's progress continues to be seen at Key Stage 4.

3.30 Members welcomed that, no child in our care has been permanently excluded since 2011. This is still the case in 2021.

3.31 The report focused not just on educational outcomes. Members appreciated that it described areas beyond the traditional sphere of education that impact upon the lives of looked after children and young people and can, in turn, impact on their educational outcomes. In this context, members liked:

- The various and innovative ways of rewarding achievements – whatever they might be i.e. not always academic - were supported;
- The situation with regard to Personal Education Plans, and the e-Gov ePEP system being fully embedded;
- The “On Track” programme which ensures that children in care from primary to sixth form are regularly invited to specialist aspirational sessions at all of the local higher education (HE) provisions. 25 of our young people are currently involved in this programme;
- The Virtual School held its graduation ceremony for the young people who graduated in the academic year of 2019//20 in February 2021. Due to Covid restrictions this was held virtually. A decision will be made in the summer when the recovery road map is clearer as to if the graduation for the class of 2020/21 will be held face to face or virtual;

3.32 It is pleasing that we continue to encourage and assist schools to make the best of the enhanced Pupil Premium and the importance of providing flexible and appropriate support.

3.33 We are shortly to look at the Virtual School Annual Report for 2019/20, when we will be able to review the effect of the pandemic.

Safeguarding and Permanence: Principle 6

For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work

3.34 The welfare of all children and young people in the local community must be a top priority for any local authority. Safeguarding ensures that children are kept as safe as possible by identifying their needs, views and any risks they face. Services, information and support can then be provided as required.

- 3.35 Areas under this principle include numbers of missing children, the stability of placements, permanence planning and so on – are all areas the group looks at regularly under quarterly monitoring information, but have also been reviewed recently in detail. Performance and quality remain strong and have been maintained during the pandemic. Two areas highlighted by members that were most pleasing:
- Unlike many authorities who have to rely on external providers to ensure they have sufficient placements to meet demand, North Yorkshire continues to ensure that there are sufficient placements to meet need.
 - The record on stability of placements has remained good
- 3.36 Last year, when the group looked at Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE), the group concluded that the need for a strong integrated approach to sexual exploitation through multi-agency working is well recognised and delivered.

Transitions: Principle 7

To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

- 3.37 Our work on Transitions pre-dates the pandemic – we will correct that when we review this area in October this year.
- 3.38 Staying Put care enables young people to experience a transition from care to independence and adulthood that is similar to that which most young people experience, based on need and not on age alone. Our record is excellent - an average stay of over 16 months and currently with 40 young people in this arrangement.
- 3.39 Members welcomed this as it means that young people are moving to independence only when they are ready. Additionally, the authority continues to perform well in terms of keeping in touch with our care leavers, with over 99% recorded as being in touch.
- 3.40 There is a lack of affordable accommodation within some areas of the county for young people looked after wanting to set up on their own. The district councils continuing pledge to ensure gold-banded status continues for care leavers registering on North Yorkshire home choice, and similar schemes operating across the county, is a major step forward. But imaginative solutions are having to be found for some young people; it is especially difficult to find suitable accommodation for young people with complex needs.
- 3.41 Members welcomed the variety of ways we are preparing young people for essential life skills e.g. budgeting, loans, benefits, cooking, what to do in an emergency. For example:

- Getting Ready for Adult Life (GRAL) is a workbook package that is used across all services to record and identify skills acquired and ones that need developing
- Different workshop opportunities are provided around cooking, financial literacy (in partnership with TYVS) and general life skill
- districts councils have pledged as corporate parents, to provide work experience opportunities and guaranteed interviews for care leavers.

3.42 LAC Group members supported four care leaver Christmas lunches held across the county from their locality budgets and helped build the sense of community with our care leaver population, linking in with their local areas, and helping our young people.

3.43 Members supported the leaving care team via their local grants with the provision of wellbeing goody bags for young people in May 2020, to help them through lockdown. The bags included, hand gel, some sweet tweets, something to help past the time such as drawing or Netflix tokens and a card of support with details of telephone and on line support.

Missing Children

3.44 Looked after children are more likely to go missing than their peers. Children may run away from care for all sorts of reasons. These include:

- wanting to return home to their family;
- being unhappy or bored in their care placement;
- feeling like they didn't have enough control over their own lives; and
- just wanting to spend more time with their friends, especially as the days get longer - as all teenagers do.

3.45 Local authorities are responsible for protecting children whether they go missing from their family home or from local authority care. Children who go missing are at greater risk of physical abuse, grooming and sexual exploitation.

3.46 Information regularly comes forward to the group on the number of unaccompanied children who go missing.

3.47 In order to appreciate the relationship between missing incidents and number of children going missing, the group examined the average number of missing incidents per child. Recent analysis suggests that a small number of young people were responsible for a large number of incidents.

3.48 Numbers for children going missing is collected on a monthly basis. We now have a detailed data picture of missing incidents – which children go missing, when they go missing, how often they do so, and so on. The group praised our processes and how they are carefully and sensitively managed. Clearly, Multi Agency Partnership working is successfully driving improvement in this area.

Youth Justice and LAC Offending

- 3.49 Children's early life experiences have a significant impact on their development and future life chances. Because of their experiences before entering care, and during care, children in care are at greater risk of entering the youth justice system than their peers.
- 3.50 We looked at some of the factors associated with children in care offending in North Yorkshire
- 3.51 Although small in number, those children in our care who reoffend tend to present persistent and serious concerns.
- 3.52 Members were reassured by some of the recent developments and practices aimed at addressing these problems:
- Early Help Integration – reaching upstream to intervene earlier
 - Youth Outcomes Panel – more diversion from formal disposals
 - Placement Incidents Protocol – minimises formal Police involvement
 - My Assessment Plan – less deskwork, more direct support
 - Child & Family Centred – holistic, effective change
 - PACE Transfers – fewer children appearing in court from cells
 - DCS Custody Alert – every Looked After child at risk of detention
 - Resettlement Panel – better planning for young custody leavers
- 3.53 A National Protocol on Reducing Unnecessary Criminalisation of LAC and Care Leavers has been jointly published by Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Department of Education on 27 Nov 2018.
- 3.54 This has drawn together and codified best practice from across the children's social care, health and criminal justice sectors, informed by research and advocacy organisations.
- 3.55 It emphasises the Corporate Parenting duty upon local authority partnerships, and also the wider duty upon the whole state to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in its care. It is a timely and welcome step in tackling the long-standing over-representation of LAC children in care in the criminal justice system, as the evidence shows that disproportionality is escalating as the youth justice population shrinks.
- 3.56 We were reassured at the way the county council and its partners have responded to this challenge. A multi-agency group benchmarks local provision against the requirements of the National Protocol, and to develop a partnership plan for systemic improvement of criminal justice outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.

Regulation 44 Visits

- 3.57 It is an essential part of the local authority's role as corporate parent that we make sure children's homes run by the local authority are safe for looked-after children in our care and that their needs are met.
- 3.58 In addition to frequent reports about how homes are performing, we do this in part by carrying out Regulation 44 (Children's Homes England Regulations 2015) visits by an independent person. These are monitoring visits and are made to each of our children's homes every month. Group members who have signed up to be involved in this inspection process recently attended a training event. We reaffirmed current practice:
- Members should retain a significant involvement with the inspection process;
 - information about life within homes generally is a key resource for elected members of the group;
 - the role of the member vis a vis children's homes should be to not just connect to the home in question to build relationships – advantageous though that is – it should also be to provide an independent, impartial perspective.
- 3.59 Some recent changes to membership, and increasing the numbers of the group, gave the opportunity to introduce pairing/doubling up type arrangements to even out and widen the commitment for inspecting each home.
- 3.60 Initially, we were briefed on how since March last year, changes had been made to ensure we met our statutory responsibilities with appropriate Covid protection measures in place in the homes and how outbreak incidences in certain homes and how these had been handled. We were greatly reassured by what we heard.
- 3.61 All group members now see inspection reports from all the homes. We therefore have an excellent picture of life in these establishments. More recently, members have been able to join in on virtual inspections.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 The Looked After Children Members' Group is not a Committee of the Executive but a non-decision making member working group responsible for supporting the Executive, and the Council as a whole, in its role as corporate parent. The group regularly advises the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services on corporate parenting issues, and at any stage, should any issues arise in the interim which they consider should be drawn to the attention of the Executive
- 4.2 The Group comprises between five and ten members, appointed annually by the Executive (it currently stands at 10), and may include members and co-opted members from the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman of the Group is appointed by the Executive.

Steph Duckett

David	Goode
Caroline	Goodrick
Janet	Jefferson
Cliff	Lunn
Caroline	Patmore
Gill	Quinn (Vice Chairman)
Janet	Sanderson
David	Sharp (VCS rep on Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Annabel	Wilkinson (Chairman)

- 4.3 The group met on 5 occasions in 2019, once formally in January 2020 before the first lockdown and remotely 5 times since. Attendance has been good throughout. We have found Teams meetings to be just as effective as face to meetings - if perhaps not as natural – in keeping the group informed and equipped to carry out its role.
- 4.4 Elected members and officers have a good working relationship based on mutual trust. Members are confident, based on this years' experience in particular, that officers give an honest portrayal of the service, including any weaknesses.
- 4.5 We have been able to base our judgements about the quality of care we provide from a number of different sources and not just reports from officers. Relevant sources include performance data, analyses of complaints and, importantly, the views of looked after children themselves.

5.0 ELECTED MEMBERS AS CORPORATE PARENTS

- 5.1 Every elected member, when elected to represent their division, becomes a corporate parent as part of their role. The children in our care have a right to expect that members of the authority are looking out for them and will protect them from harm.
- 5.2 There are three levels of responsibility:
1. Universal responsibility – applicable to all elected members
 2. Targeted responsibility – for example the LAC member group.
 3. Specialist responsibility – those councillors with a specific, relevant role e.g. the Lead Member for Children's Services, Chair of the LAC members group, Chair of the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.3 The consensus amongst group members is that arrangements for 2 & 3 above are well developed and now properly embedded. Our standing in these categories is clear.

- 5.4 In terms of the responsibility on all members (Category 1), we should continue to encourage individual councillors to consider the contribution that they are making and can make. Using our locality budgets has been a great step forward – especially during the pandemic. The more options we take for raising elected member level awareness – via member seminars, at all scrutiny and area committees, for example – the better for our children and young people.
- 5.5 Finally, thanks go to all the young people, officers and partner representatives who have been involved with or helped the members accomplish our work or be the corporate parents we aspire to be. Without your dedication and hard work none of this would have been possible.