

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLEDGES, DECEMBER 2019

Performance and Risk Team



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PLEDGES

Pledge	Portfolio Holder	Lead Director	Status – End State
<p>Pledge 41 - We will continue to reduce the use of institutional placements for children and adults with complicated needs or challenging behaviour. We will support more people to remain living in their own communities, close to their friends and family, to enjoy their rights as full citizens.</p>	Jemima Laigning	Jean Kelly	<p>In Progress: Reduction in the proportion of children in institutional placements.</p> <p>The fostering service is about to be restructured. A formal consultation process has commenced with affected staff and with the unions. Subject to successful consultation we are hoping the new structure will go live by March 2020. A dedicated A Service Manager post for fostering is being created in this redesign. This will help prioritise our work to ensure in-house fostering is prioritised and that we increase this provision significantly over the course of the next two years. We have also agreed, following a tendering process, to use a marketing provider to ensure we use an effective marketing campaign. We have offered this contract to an established provider in fostering provision who have evidenced success in other local authorities. This work is designed to have a significant impact on placement sufficiency in Plymouth.</p>
<p>Pledge 47 - Every Plymouth child deserves a safe and loving home. That is why we will promote fostering and adoption in Plymouth with a renewed public campaign.</p>	Jemima Laigning	Jean Kelly	<p>Completed: A campaign to promote fostering and adoption in Plymouth.</p> <p>This is being supported via an updated Recruitment and Marketing Strategy as well as initiatives such as 'Fostering Friendly Plymouth'.</p>
<p>Pledge 48 - We will look to provide support for care leavers up to the age of 25, ensuring that the City Council plays its part in supporting young people leaving care, including guaranteeing a work placement with the City Council to help them start their working lives.</p>	Jemima Laigning	Jean Kelly	<p>In Progress: Create a number of work experience placements within Plymouth City Council for young people leaving care.</p> <p>There are now two strands to our work to ensure that all care leavers are offered work experience opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing work to ensure all 18-21 year olds have work experience opportunities to support them to achieve employment opportunities. 2. All Cabinet Members and the Corporate Leadership Team have been written to with a list of work placement requests from looked after young

			<p>people aged between 14-17 years of age. We have requested that everyone considers who in their professional and personal contacts might be willing to offer a work experience to a young person. This may be for one day or a full work experience opportunity. We have asked that offers are sent to a central inbox by mid-January 2020. This work will be co-ordinated by Barnardos Care Journey and Children, Young People and Families Service to ensure that connections are made.</p> <p>We have already linked two young people via this process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One young person interested in journalism is being linked with BBC Spotlight South West for some work experience in the New Year. 2. One young person has been linked with Barnardos to get involved in some digital design experience on the basis of his interest in computing and gaming.
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EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS PLEDGES

Pledge	Portfolio Holder	Lead Director	Status – End State
<p>Pledge 7 - We set up Building Plymouth to encourage jobs in the construction industry. We will continue to support its work and will be encouraging opportunities for older workers, whether they are looking for a change of job or are out of work. We will sign up to Unite the Union's Construction Charter.</p>	Jon Taylor	Judith Harwood	<p>Completed: Development of a strategic plan which continues to support current activities within the delivery plan. Sign up to Unite the Union's Construction Charter and commit to actions.</p>
<p>Pledge 40 - Parents tell us of their unhappiness as school standards continue to drop. Plymouth has embraced free schools, academies and UTCs, but despite getting a good start from primary schools, we are not producing the high qualifications needed for our</p>	Jon Taylor	Judith Harwood	<p>In Progress: we have established the Plymouth Standards Partnership and also are working with the RSC and Teaching School Council to commission additional support for the city system.</p> <p>Increase in the percentage of children attending</p>

children to get on in the modern world. Although the Government has removed the powers Councils had to intervene, we will find ways of encouraging schools to raise standards across the city - particularly in secondary schools.			schools that are good or outstanding (Ofsted ratings).
Pledge 42 - We think the current system of fining parents for taking their children on holiday in term time can hurt families on a budget. We will work with schools and parents to introduce a fair system so families can take an annual holiday without penalty. PRIORITY PLEDGE (TOP 5)	Jon Taylor	Judith Harwood	In Progress: Following consultation on options we will design a system that enables families to take a holiday without falling foul of legal implications.
Pledge 43 - Plymouth needs more engineers, mathematicians and scientists. We have world-class STEM employers. The city council will look to work with the Plymouth Manufacturers Group and Women in STEM to increase the number of young people taking STEM subjects at school, college and university. We will work with major manufacturers and large businesses to give school children an insight into how factories, manufacturing, digital and creative industries, STEM roles and other major Plymouth employers work. We will also support people to improve their STEM skills throughout their career.	Jon Taylor	Judith Harwood	Completed: Through the STEM plan, support will be provided for teachers through STEM subject learning hubs and networks linked into national strategies, pilots and regional industrial requirements mapped to the curriculum.
Pledge 44 - Plymouth has an international reputation for marine science and technology. We need more children and parents to seize these opportunities and so we will offer schools the chance to showcase the best of Plymouth's commercial and research experience in the classroom.	Jon Taylor	Judith Harwood	Completed: Delivery through the STEM Plan and Mayflower 400 Planned activities.
Pledge 45 - A growing number of children in Plymouth are caring for a	Jon Taylor	Judith Harwood	Completed: Appointment of a Young Carers' Champion and delivery of a Young Carers Conference.

<p>family member. We will appoint a Young Carers' Champion to be their voice in the city and we will hold a conference to showcase the fantastic work being done in some of our city's schools to support young carers and develop good practice for schools across the city.</p>			
<p>Pledge 49 - We welcome Devon and Cornwall Police's commitment to Operation Encompass and we will encourage Plymouth's schools to play their full and active part to keep children safe.</p>	<p>Jon Taylor</p>	<p>Judith Harwood</p>	<p>Completed: Continued promotion and support publically for programme.</p>