

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

26 JUNE 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

MY THINGS MATTER PLEDGE

Reason for this Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update on the My Things Matter Campaign, as provided within Appendix A.
2. Members of the Committee are encouraged to become signatories to the NYAS My Things Matter pledge in order to improve the experience of children and young people when moving to different placements.

Background

3. The campaign was developed by NYAS after conducting extensive research with children and young people who are looked after or care experienced as well as the professionals working with them.
4. The study found evidence that the way in which children's personal belongings were transferred between placements caused them to feel undignified and of less value.
 - a. 3 in 5 children and young people said that at least one, but often more of their personal belongings had been lost or damaged when moving home while living in care.
 - b. 4 in 5 children said their belongings were moved in binbags during their time in care.
 - c. 3 in 5 professionals had seen binbags being used to move any or all of the belongings of a child or young person with whom they had worked in the last five years.
5. These research findings are not unique to Wales and similar evidence has been noted from international studies and reviews.

Issues

Development of pledge

6. NYAS developed the pledge in order to ask Local Authorities to commit to the following for young people and children who are looked after:
 - We will help you to keep your most precious belongings with you safely during your move and promise they will not be moved in binbags.
 - We will provide written guidance for you and anyone helping you to move, which we will publish on our website.
 - We will never move or throw away your belongings without your consent and will always respect your personal property.
 - We will support you to make a complaint if any of your belongings have been lost or damaged during your move.
 - We will communicate with you about your move and ask you how the move went.

Further details and progress so far

7. NYAS have teamed up with the Madlug, a buy one give one bag brand to provide a pack away travel bag to a child in care. To date more than 50,000 bags have been donated to children and young people who are looked after.
8. The campaign has been positively received, currently approximately 30 Local Authorities have signed up to the pledge across England and Wales.
9. Liaison between the communication teams at both Cardiff Council and NYAS has taken place. If agreement is given by members of the committee to sign the pledge, it will be promoted by both communication teams, including via social media.

Legal Implications

10. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report but if in the carrying out of the pledge financial costs are identified then the funding source needs to be identified prior to spending.

RECOMMENDATION

12. To endorse the pledge and to consider how the Committee can be involved in supporting it.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES
19 JUNE 2023