

Date: Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 5.00 pm

Venue: Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Stockton on Tees,
TS18 1TU

Cllr Lisa Evans (Chair)
Cllr Carol Clark (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Pauline Beall
Cllr Mick Moore
Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Cllr Alex Griffiths
Cllr Hilary Vickers

AGENDA

- 1 Evacuation Procedure**
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Our Promise to You - Corporate Parenting Pledge** (Pages 7 - 14)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Scrutiny Support Officer Rachel Harrison on email rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Our Promise to You

Corporate Parenting Pledge

1. We promise we will care for you and help to keep you safe

- When you first come into care we will explain why, and be honest and clear about the plans for you including whether or not you are likely to be returning home
- We will make sure you live in a safe place where you are cared for and that is as near as possible to your family and friends
- We will help you to keep in touch with friends and family and if this is not possible we will give you a reason why
- We will make sure you know your social worker and Independent Reviewing Officer, how to contact them and that you see them regularly and in private. We will only change your worker when it is absolutely necessary and we will make sure that they say goodbye to you if they leave.

2. We promise you a good education and to help you achieve your hopes and dreams for the future

- We will listen to your views on school and respond and act quickly if we need to make changes to keep you safe and able to learn
- We will help you grow in confidence and make positive choices and decisions
- We will make sure you don't have to change school wherever possible, particularly not in Years 10 and 11
- We will work with school to help you do your best and help you catch up with school work if you fall behind or miss any days
- We will make sure that you have access to a computer to help you with your learning
- We will make sure you have a copy of your Personal Education Plan (PEP) and understand what it is trying to help you achieve
- We will provide you with opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships within the Council.
- We will celebrate your achievements and help you achieve things that are important to you.
- If you want to stay on in further education, we will support you to find the best course for you and help you financially

3. We promise to help you have good memories, positive relationships and places to go and things to do

- We will help you to find hobbies, clubs and social activities that you enjoy.
- We will provide you with a free leisure pass so you can access sports and other positive activities
- We will help you keep in touch with your family and friends and other people who are important to you wherever it is possible and safe for you to do so
- We will celebrate your birthday and cultural events that are important to you
- We will tell you about things you are entitled to like pocket money, savings and money for clothes
- We will help you build a 'life story' of the important people in your life, the places you have visited and the things you like to do

4. We promise to ensure that you are listened to and take part in things that affect you

- We will support and encourage you to be fully involved in your care plan and reviews. We will always ask you for your views and listen to them. We will make sure you can give your views in lots of ways – speaking, writing, drawing – however you choose to.
- We will always take your views into consideration when decisions are being made about you. If we can't do what you have asked, we will give you an explanation why.
- We will help you to make a complaint if we cannot sort something you are unhappy about. We will make sure you can contact an independent advocate to help you do this.
- We will give you the opportunity to have your voice heard and make suggestions about how to improve the services that children and young people receive.

5. We promise to support your health and wellbeing

- We will help you have access to clear and age appropriate information about your physical and mental health
- We will make sure you are able to attend all of your GP, dentist and hospital appointments
- We will let you know how and where to get access to confidential help and advice
- We will help you to keep fit and healthy by having opportunities to play, have a hobby or play sports

6. We promise to help you prepare for adult life and to live independently

- We will provide you with a Personal Adviser from the age of 15 ½
- We will make sure you have a passport, national insurance number and birth certificate
- We will help you open a bank account or savings account
- We will support you financially until you start work or are entitled to claim benefits
- We will help you to learn about how to manage your money
- We will provide you with opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships within the Council
- We will help you apply for college, apprenticeships or jobs
- We will help you to fill out forms with other agencies and support you in any discussions you might need to have with them
- We will provide you with a grant to help you settle into your own accommodation when you leave care
- We will support you if you want to go to college and university
- We will always be there for you if you make a mistake and will help you get back on track

7. We promise that we take our role as corporate parents very seriously and will do everything we can to champion you, uphold your rights and ensure your needs are met

- We will do everything we can to make sure that you have the best possible opportunities in life
- We will make sure that listening to you and taking your views and experiences into consideration is part of everyday life in Stockton-on-Tees
- We will offer you the opportunity to meet with us on a regular basis and want you to tell us if you think our promises are not being kept.