

**ARGYLL AND BUTE'S PROMISE: GIVE ME A CHANCE**

---

**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report advises of the recent signing of the 'Give Me a Chance – Be Fair to a Child in Care' campaign and provides information in relation to the campaign.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Council are asked to endorse the signing of the 'Give Me a Chance – Be Fair to a Child in Care' campaign.

**3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October the Council Leader - Cllr Roddy McCuish and the Chief Executive - Sally Loudon, made a promise to help end stigma for children and young people in care by signing up to the 'Give Me A Chance – Be Fair to a Child in Care' campaign.
- 3.2 The campaign, driven by Who Cares? Scotland (WCS) aims to end the stigma faced by children and young people in care. WCS is a voluntary organisation that works with and for children and young people in care.
- 3.3 In 2008, WCS produced a publication which captured what success means to children and young people in care and what their aspirations are for the future. Consultation with children and young people within care across Scotland found that stigma and other people's low expectations of them had an adverse impact.
- 3.4 In tackling this, WCS joined up with young people and a range of partners including Scottish Government, Barnardo's and the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration to develop the campaign.

- 3.5 In signing the campaign, Argyll and Bute Council promises to:
- Combat the myths associated with children and young people in care.
  - Promote a positive message of the achievements of children in care.
  - Help to educate communities and workforces on the reasons for children being accommodated.
  - Listen to children and young people and work in partnership with them to increase opportunities for them to thrive.
  - Advocate for looked after and accommodated children and young people as children first.
  - Find creative ways to support children and young people, including young people leaving our care.
  - Support children and young people in fulfilling their potential.
  - Continue to provide high quality services.
  - Support the campaign through practical and material activities.
- 3.6 These promises can be taken forward through every department in the Council working together to create opportunities for Looked After Children. The current Looked After Children Plan details how the Council and partner agencies will work together to improve outcomes for Looked After Children.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Council are asked to acknowledge the stigma faced by children and young people in care and endorse the signing of the 'Give Me a Chance – Be Fair to a Child in Care' campaign to reduce stigma and promote positive outcomes for children and young people in care.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy: The campaign aligns directly to the Council's corporate outcome 1 (Working together to improve the potential of our people).
- 5.2 Financial: None.
- 5.3 Legal: The campaign supports the Council to meet its statutory duties in relation to Looked After Children.
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities: The campaign supports the Council to ensure that Looked After Children and those leaving our care have an equality of opportunity and life chances.

- 5.6 Risk: Failure to support Looked After Children and those leaving our care presents direct risks to the future life chances for this group of children and young people.
- 5.7 Customer Service: The campaign supports the Council in identifying and meeting its responsibilities as a corporate parent.

**Cleland Sneddon**  
**Executive Director of Community Services**  
31 October 2012

**For further information contact:** Helen Thornton, Executive Support Officer,  
01546 604127