

SUBJECT: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25

MEETING: People Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 18th April 2023

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To present the committee the Corporate Parenting Strategy for scrutiny in relation to responsibilities of the council, performance against the previous Corporate Parenting strategy 2017-2022 and the Action Plan which will address the needs of Children Looked After and Care Experienced young people

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That members scrutinise the Review, Performance and Action Plan in the Corporate Parenting strategy 2022-2025 and provide feedback, as appropriate, prior to presentation at full Council for endorsement.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 The law and guidance about Children Looked After is substantial and complex relating to children and young people whose best interests cannot be met by their family for whom the Council becomes responsible. Part 6 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014) is the core legislation, with S78 stating the duty of the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and care leaver. In terms of welfare, it encompasses the Act's universal wellbeing outcomes.

3.2 The format of the report follows the template presented 2015-2018, and 2018-2025 which supports a compare and contrast model. It seeks to articulate the vision of the Council in relation to Children Looked After and clarifies the responsibilities of the Council and Councillors when considering the entitlements of Children Looked After and Care Experienced young people.

3.3 The report sets out the local picture in relation to the trends and changes of Monmouthshire's Children Looked After population, offering a national context in order to support the Review of Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2023. The Key Achievements and Barriers to ongoing change are the basis for the Action Plan which is and will drive change and improvement in the period 2022-25.

3.4 It is acknowledged this is a formal format and is not inclusive in style for many of the young people and carers that it impacts the most, therefore when concluded in Council their will also be a more accessible format to ensure our communities, young people and carers are informed

4. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

4.1 The report provides an appraisal of performance and identifies future priorities. The report identifies the contribution of social services in Monmouthshire to the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

4.2 The report provides analysis of performance and priorities related to the Children Looked After in Monmouthshire, our Care Experienced young people and the role of corporate parenting.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

6.1 The report provides an analysis of the performance of Social Care & Health Services and Corporate Parents in 2018-2022. This has used a range of evidence, including the performance indicators from the measurement framework as part of the Social Services and Well-being Act, National and Local data. It has also been reviewed and contributed to by Carer's, Care Experience Young People and Children Looked After

6. REASONS:

7.1 To ensure that council has a clear understanding of its roles and responsibilities to the children in Monmouthshire's care and those who leave our care system. It offers and evaluation of the performance and impact of national and local contexts in reviewing the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-22 and details the Action Plan and future priorities to deliver a positive and sustainable future for Children Looked After, Foster Carers, and Care Experienced young people in Monmouthshire.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 The period of time this strategy covers is one of financial constraints as well as national instability in relation to the removal of private care providers for children looked after by 2026. This strategy sets out the direction of travel within this uncertain period, we will continue to maximise our resources, and will remain focused on our priorities. The resource implications for this period remain undefined however the priority for our young people in Monmouthshire is to ensure this strategy is delivered without compromise.

8. CONSULTEES:

- Care Experienced Young People.

- Children Looked After.
- Foster Carer's
- Social Workers/Support Workers Long Term Support Team Children Services
- Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. AUTHOR:

Diane Corrister

Head of Children Services Monmouthshire

E-mail: dianecorrister@monmouthshire.gov.uk