

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PARENTING

MEETING: COUNCIL

DATE: 21st June 2018

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

NON-PUBLICATION - NA

1. PURPOSE:

This report seeks approval for the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Council Members:

- Note the content and intentions of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan
- Note the membership and Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel
- Consider the implications for all elected members and the wider council.

3. KEY ISSUES:

All Councillors have a special responsibility as Corporate Parents to ensure that all Looked After Children within our County have the opportunity to live a safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling life.

Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is the core legislation which underpins this duty. Section 78 states that it is the Council's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and every care leaver. Once a child is in care all elected members and officers of the local authority, as corporate parents, need to be concerned about that child.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan sets out how the council will meet this statutory duty over the next 3-year period. The strategy takes into consideration the current local context and an overview appraisal of the outcomes of the previous strategy (2014 – 2017).

The strategy is set around 9 priority areas:

Priority 1 – All elected members and officers understand and act on their responsibilities as corporate parents

Priority 2: All looked after children have a safe and stable home

Priority 3: Looked after children enjoy a range of educational and learning opportunities

Priority 4: Looked after children enjoy the best possible health

Priority 5: Looked after children enjoy a range of play, sport, leisure and cultural opportunities

Priority 6: Looked after children are listened to and treated with respect

Priority 7: Looked after children are supported and enabled to achieve independence

Priority 8: Looked after children are cared for by Monmouthshire carers and remain close to their homes and communities

Priority 9: All care leavers are supported in education, training and employment

The delivery of the strategy is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Panel. The membership and Terms of Reference for the Panel is set out at appendix 2 and 3.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

No other options were considered.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation measures are set out in the action plan at appendix 1.

6. REASONS:

The Council has a statutory requirement to define how it will respond to the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and every care leaver, not only within Children's Services but through the involvement of the whole council.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no core financial implications required to implement the strategy. A range of potential avenues will be explored to financially support aspects of the strategy around specific events and activities for young people or carers. Officer and Member time is required to ensure the effective implementation of the strategy.

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

See attached at Appendix 4

9. CONSULTEES:

Who	Mechanism	Outcome
Corporate Parenting Panel Members	Discussed at panels and via emails over the last 4 months	Details and content discussed at meetings and via email and content developed / amended
CYP Select	Presentation at Committee Jan 24 th 2018	Committee members endorsed the strategy and action plan
Care Leavers Group	Personal Advisor facilitated discussions on the draft strategy	Comments made about the importance of emotional well-being, financial support and out of county placements. Comments

		included into the body of the report.
Cabinet Members	Cabinet Meeting 6 th June 2018	Endorsed the report
Senior Leadership Team	SLT meeting 12 th June 2018	Endorsed the report

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 (appendix 1)

Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference (Appendix 2)

Corporate Parenting Panel Membership (Appendix 3)

11. AUTHOR:

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