

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

22 January 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

MENTORING SCHEME UPDATE

Reasons for the report

1. This report sets out an update in relation to the Mentoring Scheme Cardiff Children's Services are currently in the process of implementing for our Children Looked After.
2. The Mentoring Scheme is designed to support and empower children and young people by offering them practical experiences and opportunities within the authority.

Background

3. The Mentoring Scheme will be a structured programme focused on providing guidance, support, and assistance to children and young people in various aspects of their lives.
4. The scheme will pair young people with adult mentors to offer them supervision, positive role modelling, and opportunities for personal and academic growth. This will be facilitated by way of practical work experience and volunteering opportunities within the authority.
5. The aim of the scheme is to increase social, academic and life skill development in children and young people by giving them positive, consistent role models to learn from. It is hoped that this will create a sense of community and belonging for those young people taking part in the scheme.

Issues

6. There are several issues to consider in relation to the implementation of the Mentoring scheme. Firstly, the creation and availability of the opportunities offered to our CLA.
7. Children's Services are actively promoting the scheme and the recruitment of volunteer mentors by delivering informative presentations across each Directorate.
8. Secondly, ensuring compatibility between mentors and mentees is key to the success of the pilot. There needs to be a robust selection and matching process in place to mitigate the risks associated with this issue.
9. In addition, consideration needs to be given to the promotion of regular and sustained engagement. The implementation of frequent check ins and appropriate support will aim to preserve engagement from all of those involved in the project but will need to be monitored closely.
10. There are plans to deliver further information sessions and presentations in relation to the mentoring scheme, to assist in the recruitment of more volunteer mentors.
11. Every Directorate has been contacted to ask for their suggestions as to how they can support the mentoring scheme, so that there is a consistent and varied programme on offer. Meetings will then be held in January 2024 to explore these prospects and include them in the Corporate Parenting Operational Plan.

Financial Implications

12. There are currently no financial implications arising from this report

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

14. To note the information shared within the update as outlined at **Appendix A** and to explore ways they can support the mentoring scheme.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
21 December 2023

