

# **Corporate Parenting Strategy**

**Sept. 2015 - Sept.2017**



# Corporate Parenting Strategy

## FOREWORD – LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ARE OUR PRIORITY

This strategy marks the start of a new and exciting chapter in the development of services for looked after children in Cardiff. This is true on a number of levels.

### **Common Purpose - Outcome Focused**

This is the first time that Cardiff Children's Social Services has departed from a narrow focus on statutory functions and joined with its statutory and third sector partners to develop a coherently aligned strategy that is focused upon improving outcomes for looked after children. This strategy aims to combine the skills, resources and commitment of all professionals in a unified way to deliver two key Outcomes.

It reflects a genuine partnership in which no one agency has primacy but in which all are committed to:

- 'Narrowing the gap' so that looked after children achieve their potential
- Improving services so that fewer children need enter the looked after system.

### **Evidence of 'What Works'**

The Implementation Plan which flows from this strategy is obviously key and sets out a wide range of initiatives to enhance the provision of services in order to better support children living with their families where possible and improving services for those children whose protection requires them to become looked after by the local authority. Many are services that already exist in Cardiff but which, as a result of this strategy, will now be able to enhance their impact because the strategy links their offer and resources with others, into a coherent whole. For example, services such as Families First, Youth Services and Team around Family will now make it their priority to contribute towards supporting children and families in order to reduce the number of children becoming looked after.

## **Fewer Looked after Children**

Delivering this commitment will have major implications for thousands of children over the next 5 years because it will mean fewer children's needs being met through the court arena, in the Looked After system or in the criminal justice system. More children will be able to enjoy family life in their own homes.

## **Sustainable Futures - Cost Effective Services**

It will have major implications for agencies who will be better able not only to sustain services in the face of considerable financial pressure, but to deploy a greater proportion of those resources to much greater effect for the benefit of a greater number of children. Less of spending large sums on a few children with poor overall outcomes; more of spending lower cost effective sums on a wider population of children whilst securing better outcomes.

**Tony Young**  
**Director of Children's Services**  
**Chair - Vulnerable Children and Families Programme Board**

## **VALUES**

Cardiff Council is committed to *Making the Difference* to the lives of children and promotes the principle that the City of Cardiff Council cares about its children. It is important that any activity initiated by this strategy is consistent with the City of Cardiff Council's core values. The three overarching corporate values are: to be 'open', 'fair' and 'together'.

## **THE AIM**

We want children and young people in our care to have the best possible life experiences, to be safe, happy and healthy, and achieve their full potential at school and in the future. We want to do this in collaboration with our partner agencies and where possible with families. And where it is safe to do so, we want children to remain at home with their parents or extended families with effective support services.

### **Corporate Parenting mission statement**

*"Working together to ensure the best possible outcomes for children who are looked after or who have left care, so that they can be happy and lead a fulfilling life"*

## **CONTEXT**

At the end of 2014, Cardiff had 1576 Children in Need, 297 children subject to a child protection plan and 651 looked after children. Historically, Cardiff's Looked After Children rate has remained relatively consistent over time. The trend suggests that in the future the rate of Looked After Children will continue to be relatively static.

In order to achieve good outcomes for looked after children and control costs it is essential that a long term strategic approach is maintained rather than making short term decisions which will create increasing budgetary pressures in future years.

An effective strategy for looked after children must include the development of more integrated and effective preventative services to ensure that children do not become looked after unnecessarily and, when they do become looked after, to reunite them with their families successfully wherever possible.

Preventative services must take a whole family approach and assess health, education, housing and social care needs in order for outcomes to improve and to avoid escalating costs.

## **BRING CARDIFF CHILDREN BACK HOME TO CARDIFF**

We accept that too many looked after children are living away from Cardiff and we recognise that there have been missed opportunities of support to prevent some children entering the care system. We are keen to put this right and where appropriate bring back those children placed outside of Cardiff and enhance our edge of care services to better support those children who are at the 'edge of care'.

### **Background**

In December 2013, the 4 month report of the then new Director of Children's Services stated that:

*"[there is an] absence of any effective analysis of Cardiff's LAC population which I believe is symptomatic of a real and significant strategic deficit in terms of the capacity of the service to understand the challenges and pressures it faces in any clearly formulated or organised way. It is very difficult to understand how the council/service can formulate any coherent commissioning intentions without fundamentally understanding the needs of its LAC population".*

During 2014, Cardiff Council commissioned a consultancy firm to undertake an independent review of the number of children being looked after children within the Cardiff area.

The consultancy firm was Cordis Bright. A firm which has previously undertaken research on the numbers of looked after children on behalf of the All Wales Heads of Children's Services, the Welsh Local Government Association and the Directors of Children's Services.

The review examined the three **main aspirations** for services for vulnerable children. Those aspirations are:

1. Preventing children from needing to be looked after
2. Improving outcomes for children who are looked after
3. Rehabilitating children out of care.

The review also considered five main levers to achieving this:

1. Strategy and leadership
2. Prevention and early intervention
3. Approach to practice
4. Partnership working
5. Information and intelligence about performance.

Cardiff has a dedicated Looked After Children's service which promotes an ethos in which all staff consider it their responsibility to ensure that 'our children' get the best services and the best outcomes possible. The service adopts an approach in which

every single member of staff and management strive to settle for nothing but the best for our looked after children. It is however recognised that the ongoing increasing demand will inevitably have an adverse impact upon the service unless concerted efforts are made by the whole council to divert children away from care where it is safe to do so.

## **Key outcomes**

### **Children and young people are heard by:**

- Strengthening the role and effectiveness of the corporate parenting advisory committee
- Ensuring lessons are learnt from the complaints process
- Ensuring provision of effective advocacy
- Extending opportunities for looked after children to directly influence policies and strategies.

### **Supporting children in the community more effectively by:**

- Closer working between Looked After Children service and Early Intervention and Prevention service to enable more children to remain home
- Safely reducing the number of Looked After Children
- Admitting the right children to care at the right time
- Liaising with other agencies and partners at an early stage to provide support to families.

### **Improving the experience of looked after children by:**

- Promoting permanency through Adoption and Special Guardianship
- Continuing the promotion of long term placements with Connected Carers
- Continue to improve the choice of high quality in-house placements
- Effectively manage the use of external residential and Independent Fostering Agency placements
- Working closely with partners agencies to provide an integrated approach to support in all areas of the children's lives
- Improving services for Children with Disabilities, including short break care
- Tailoring services to meet the specific needs of children seeking asylum
- Ensuring that children's health needs are regularly assessed and acted upon to allow them to lead healthy lives.

### **Improving the experience of care leavers by:**

- Better preparation for independent living
- Extending the choice and quality of accommodation
- Enhance the opportunities for education, employment and training
- Strengthening the role of the Personal Advisors and making them more accessible.

In order to meet the key outcomes, this strategy will be underpinned by the following principles:

1. Collaboration between early intervention, prevention, and the looked after children service
2. Reducing the number of looked after children where it is safe to do so
3. Admitting the right children in care at the right time
4. Promoting permanency through special guardianships and or adoption
5. Continuing the promotion of long term placements with connected carers
6. Continuing to improve the choice of high quality in house placements
7. Effectively manage the use of external residential fostering agency placements
8. Continue to improve services for children with disabilities including short break care
9. Improve the education attainment and achievement for all looked after children
10. Improve and support the emotional well-being of looked after children
11. Strengthening the role of the corporate parenting advisory committee.

### **COLLABORATION BETWEEN EARLY INTERVENTION, PREVENTION AND THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SERVICE**

Children's Services has a strong ethos of family support, based on effective interventions to enable children to remain at home within their family or wider family safely. There are unique advantages for children experiencing family life in their own birth family and in most circumstances children's needs are best met by being cared for within their immediate or extended families. Children should be supported within their own family, with the assistance of family support services when necessary, unless there are clear reasons why this might not be consistent with their safety and wellbeing. There will always be some children and young people for whom being in local authority care offers the best and safest arrangements for their wellbeing and development. It is recognised both locally and nationally that some of the outcomes for children who are brought up in the care system have not been good and must be improved.

There is a dynamic relationship between the quality of preventive services, the efficiency of gatekeeping at the front door and the size and demographic make-up of the Looked after Children population.

It is critical that there is a strong multi-agency dimension in prevention, early intervention, diversion from care and rapid rehabilitation services. Preventive services will focus on timely and proportionate interventions to prevent breakdown in families, ensuring there are tight gatekeeping processes and delivering rapid support to rehabilitation plans to enable children to return home quickly when they do become looked after, unless the care plan is for alternative permanence. This will need to be delivered adopting a whole family approach across early intervention and prevention services.

The authority will work with other partners and invest in a range of ‘edge of care’ initiatives such as:

- Commitment to same day crisis family support at the point of a young person being identified as at risk of becoming looked after due to family breakdown and or family dysfunction
- Commitment to initiating on day one a signs of safety meeting where vulnerability risks are prevalent together with protective factors
- Commitment to facilitating a family group conference when it is felt that a child may not be able to remain at home
- Agreed outcomes based performance management framework achieving reduction in looked after children with clear performance targets in relation to Families First, Youth Service and Flying Start services.

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## **REDUCING THE NUMBER OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The aim of reducing the number of looked after children is simple but is not easy. If it was easy, lots of local authorities would be doing it as looking after children is expensive. There is a very difficult balance to strike between ensuring that children are safeguarded, with their needs being met by their families and the need to intervene effectively when children are in need of protection.

The environment nationally in terms of safeguarding has, since the death of Baby Peter, become one in which there is an understandable aversion to risk. This is evidenced nationally in the increase in numbers of children subject to child protection registration and a corresponding increase in numbers of children who are looked after.

There is a simple equation which governs the size of the looked after population. In order for the looked after population to decrease, the number of children entering the looked after population has to be less than the number of children leaving the looked after population. Consequently effective control over the number of children entering the looked after system has to be operated alongside a planning framework for individual children which is focused on legal permanence and a safe and efficient exit from the looked after system.

Children can become looked after through a relatively limited number of routes:

- As the subject of Police Protection
- As the subject of an Emergency Protection Order
- As the subject of a Remand to Care
- As the subject of Remand to Custody (LASPO Act)
- Through being accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act
- Southwark ruling (16 and 17 year olds assessed as children in need due to being homeless)
- As the subject of an Interim Care Order
- Through being accommodated under section 20 of the children act at the request of a person with parental responsibility
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children.

The first three of these routes into care are relatively rare. The next two routes are largely in relation to older adolescents. The vast majority of children become looked after as a result of a legal intervention by the local authority under the Public Law Outline.

The current make-up of the looked after population is 662, as of 30 June 2015. In terms of legal status 69 % (459) are the subject of a legal order (interim care order, full care order or placement order), whilst 30 % (200) are voluntarily accommodated under section 20. Of the 459, 55 are currently the subject of an interim care order.

Children can exit the looked after system in a number of ways:

- By reaching the age of 18 years
- By discharging themselves from voluntary accommodation if they are over 16 years of age
- By being discharged from voluntary accommodation by their parents
- By the revocation of a care order
- By being made the subject of a residence order
- By being made the subject of a special guardianship order
- By being made the subject of an adoption order.

### **ADMITTING THE RIGHT CHILDREN IN TO CARE AT THE RIGHT TIME**

Our focus must continue to be on keeping children safely supported at home with their parents, but also on effectively assessing the quality of care children are experiencing and, where parenting is not good enough, assessing parental capacity and motivation to change.

Where there is considerable evidence that parents have not responded to support and are not demonstrating the capacity or motivation to change, it is critical that our assessments are child focused. We will use risk assessments, parenting assessments, and the core assessment to make effective decisions at an early stage of a child's life. We will make it a priority to initiate the pre-proceedings process at every opportunity when it is considered that a child cannot remain at home and prior to any application being made before the court.

There is considerable evidence that repeated applications of family support with parents who don't have the capacity or motivation to change do not produce a sustained improvement in the quality of life that children experience. Delaying taking tough decisions at an early stage in a child's life can mean that their entry to the care system is delayed to a point where their prospects of alternative legal permanence are diminished because of their age or impact of the parenting they have received.

Alongside bringing the right children into care at the right time we need to operate in a way that keeps older children out of care. Research shows that older entrants to the care system do not have their life chances enhanced by coming into care.

There are many examples across the country which provides specialist services for older children (11+) in order to prevent their admission in to care, examples such as Adolescent Resources Centres and Enhanced fostering schemes are just two. These types of services would be targeted 'edge of care services' with an aim to support older children with emotional; and behavioural difficulties, children from dysfunctional families and children experiencing a relationship breakdown with their main carer(s).

In Cardiff, in the 12 months to 31st March 2015, 163 children aged 11+ were admitted to care, of these 132 children were accommodated via section 20. Thirteen of these were as a result of socially unacceptable behaviour, 20 due to the family being in acute stress and 21 as a result of family dysfunction. It is estimated that of these 54 children, the majority will return home at the age of 16 and therefore being Looked After has not offered the children any real benefits. If **all directorates and providers** make a concerted effort to enhance the provision of support to prevent this cohort of children

becoming looked after, the authority will be better able to target its resources to those children who have no alternative but to be in care.

## **PROMOTING PERMANENCY THROUGH SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP AND OR ADOPTION**

We will ensure that alternative legal permanence is prioritised for children whom it has not proved possible to raise the quality of the parenting provided by their parents to safe levels.

Cardiff has entered into a regional collaborative arrangement with neighbouring authorities which has seen the implementation of the national adoption service. There is now a specific team tasked with the recruitment and assessment of adopters, the matching process and the preparation and placement of children continues to be effectively managed by the regional arrangements.

Research shows that there are four outcome predictor factors which contribute independently to a higher risk of disruption in adoption placements:

- older age at placement
- a longer time in care
- a high level of behavioural problems
- having been singled out from siblings and rejected by birth parents.

Consequently it is extremely important that decisions for a child to be placed for adoption are taken very early in the care planning process and that there is a clear focus on timescales.

We will ensure that all looked after children have permanence plans in place at the three month review and will make use of effective parallel planning in order to minimise delay. It needs to be borne in mind however, that the impact of adoption in terms of securing a permanent future for children on the overall size of the looked after population will be limited without a parallel drive to reduce the numbers entering care.

## **CONTINUING THE PROMOTION OF LONG TERM PLACEMENTS WITH CONNECTED CARERS**

Where a child cannot live with their parents, the first option will always be to arrange for a child to be cared for by a member of his/her extended family. Where the carer is a close family member, this can be through a private arrangement between the parents and the carers, and where the child's needs are being met and parental responsibility is being effectively discharged, there may be no need for involvement from Cardiff Children's Services. If the carer selected by the parents is not an immediate family member, Private Fostering Regulations will apply and the placement will be assessed in accordance with Private Fostering Policies & Procedures.

Where a child who is voluntarily accommodated under Section 20 Children Act 1989 and is placed by Cardiff Children's Services with a member of their extended family or a friend, if parental responsibility is being effectively discharged, then the placement will be ratified under the Fostering Service Regulations and the carers will be assessed

in accordance with Fostering Service Policies & Procedures. When a child is the subject of Care Proceedings, the priority will always be to try to identify a member of their extended family or a friend with whom they will be able to live in the long term if rehabilitation to their parents proves not to be possible. Carers will be assessed in accordance with Fostering Service Policies & Procedures and will be supported by dedicated fostering Social Workers from the Fostering Service. Wherever possible carers in these circumstances will be encouraged to consider Special Guardianship because of the added security that legal permanence would give to the placement.

## **CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE CHOICE OF HIGH QUALITY IN-HOUSE PLACEMENTS**

Cardiff's Fostering Service was inspected by the Care & Social Services Inspectorate, Wales (CSSIW) in February 2015. The inspection report noted the following improvements since the last annual inspection:

- The management team had strengthened
- Children had been consulted during foster carer support visits.

It also identified the following areas that the service does well in:

- Retained an experienced group of foster carers
- Benefitted from a motivated and experienced staff group.

Work continues on the Fostering recruitment campaign and the branding was strengthened this year by using stories of real foster carers and how they make a positive difference to the lives of the looked after children they cared for. The fostering service will continue to develop its pool of foster carers in order to ensure that Cardiff children remain in Cardiff. The Looked After Children's service will play a key role in supporting the fostering service in order to attract new foster carers.

## **EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE USE OF EXTERNAL RESIDENTIAL AND INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCY PLACEMENTS**

Our priority is to place children with Cardiff carers in Cardiff and where possible, bring back those children who are placed a considerable distance away from Cardiff. Cardiff became the first Local Authority in Wales to commission a Payment by Results enhanced fostering service for Looked After Children who are placed in high cost, external residential provision outside of Cardiff. This has been an innovative approach to commissioning involving a confident panel of professionals and service users as part of the evaluation process. The new initiative takes the form of an Enhanced Fostering Scheme with wrap around therapeutic support and it will be operational in the first quarter of 2015/16.

Clearly there are some children who have to be placed outside of Cardiff for reasons of safety or because of particular needs which cannot be met locally. The current cohort placed in external residential units comprises a mixture of children who have moved to an external placement because of particular needs and children who initially went to an external placement because an in-house placement was unable to meet

their immediate need. A number of children in each of these cohorts have been in their external placement for a number of years, are very settled and are making good progress. It would clearly be inappropriate to move them on purely financial grounds.

The operational manager responsible for the Looked After Children's services tracks all external placements via the external placements panel, however this needs to be stepped up to ensure that there is no unavoidable delays in moving young people back into in-house placements when appropriate via the enhanced fostering scheme.

### **CONTINUE TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING SHORT BREAK CARE**

Short breaks can give families a rest from caring and give children and young people the chance to meet other people and have fun in a safe, friendly environment. It is our vision and priority that all children (disabled and non-disabled) will be able to attend play, leisure, sports, arts and other activities in their local communities. We aim to support organisations and groups offering these services, to ensure that staff are well trained and confident to look after disabled children. When needed, we aim to support individual children to enable them to attend activities of their choice. For those children who require more specialist short break care services, we will do an assessment to ensure that they receive the most suitable services to meet their needs.

#### **Short break care services include:**

- Community activities
- Support in the family home
- Short break foster care
- Short break residential care
- Youth groups
- Holiday play schemes
- Before and after school clubs
- Childminders
- Day nurseries.

## **IMPROVE THE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Research suggests that looked after children and young people are several times more likely to have a statement of special educational needs, to be excluded from school, and to leave school with no qualifications compared with children in the general population. In the Year 11 cohort in 2015 45% were on the Special Needs register and 21% had a Statement of Educational Needs. Children and young people who are looked after have the same core health needs as other young people, but their backgrounds and experiences are likely to make them particularly vulnerable to poorer health outcomes. Children and young people who have experienced disrupted childhoods and inconsistent or broken attachments with their parents and families are very likely to have mental health problems, and often struggle to make attachments with carers. The effects of separation from birth families on entry into care can also contribute to or accentuate mental health problems.

We will ensure that all looked after children have access to a broad and balanced education, commensurate with their needs and wherever possible, this will be in a mainstream school. Education is considered fully when a change of placement is necessary to ensure there is as little disruption to their learning as possible.

Termly designated teacher forums ensure designated teachers are briefed and trained on relevant issues including attachment issues and well-being. The progress of Looked After children is discussed in every Team Around the School (TAS) meeting and under performance is challenged. Challenge Advisers know the names of the LAC pupils in their schools and discuss their progress with the Headteacher. School Governors are briefed on their responsibilities as part of the LA governor training programme.

We will work with partners in health to ensure that early support for children with emerging emotional and mental health difficulties are supported early and play an active part in supporting the reshaping of these services being led by the Health Board to reshape.

In the context described above, it is critical that we take effective action to support Looked after Children in order to enable them to maximise their potential. We have a dedicated Looked after Children service in order to improve our focus on outcomes for looked after children. The Operational Manager for the Looked After Service works closely with the Senior Manager in Education with responsibility for looked after children and there are processes in place for information sharing, tracking attainment and attendance, rapid responses and joint training. Multi-Agency meetings are held monthly with children's service, education and health representation. Underperformance of individuals is discussed and actions clearly identified to move issues forward.

Over the last year, our Looked After children have achieved success in the number of young people we are now supporting in University. There have been no permanent exclusions of looked after children and the attendance of Looked After Children has

improved. We have also launched the Traineeship Scheme within the Council, offering work placement opportunities to looked after children and care leavers.

All Looked After Children have a Personal Education Plan (PEP). The process of completing a high quality PEP has been re-visited and a clear timeline is now in place with clear responsibilities for different stakeholders. A comprehensive training programme with foster carers, social workers and designated teachers re-visited everyone's role within the process. To further build on this success we are keen to develop a Virtual School for looked after children. The Virtual School will be instrumental in gathering data regarding attainment and progress of the looked after cohort from nursery school through to post-16. This will enable the monitoring of the cohort and ensure that the appropriate initiatives are put into place for both the primary and secondary sector. The school will be key in training designated teachers and ensuring schools receive support and advice on subjects such as attachment and the needs of looked after children. The Virtual School tracking system will enable more robust termly tracking of Looked After Children to ensure there is the earliest possible response and intervention to underachievement. Personal Education Plans will be amended to reflect the intervention that is taken with smart targets that will demonstrate progress when reviewed.

The role of Achievement Leader (Closing the Gap) has been established within Education to work closely with the Operational manager in Children's Services. The focus of her work is solely to oversee the attainment and achievement of the Looked After Children in the authority.

There is a consortium plan with key priorities that focus clearly on improving standards achieved by Looked After Children:

1. Strategic oversight of Looked After Children and their outcomes
2. Children are provided with personal education plan which are monitored and reviewed regularly
3. Provision is in place at the right time and in the right place and in the most efficient and effective way
4. Each Local Authority provision plan is based on the Learner Voice of the Looked After Child being heard and reflected upon in the commissioning of effective provision
5. School staff are able to access training and support to be able to identify and provide for the needs of LAC children appropriately
6. Foster carers and looked after children's social workers are aware of what works in improving educational outcomes
7. Looked After Children co-ordinators work together to identify innovation and what works across the region.

School to school support and the identification of good practice is a focus in designated teacher forums. Rumney Primary for example has the most Looked After Children in the primary sector and has developed some interesting practice with lego therapy. St Teilos in the secondary sector has an impressive tracking system and Cantonian High School's pastoral care is exemplary.

Outcomes in the Foundation Phase for Looked After Children in 2015 are above the Wales average in 2014. At Key Stage 3 and 4 outcomes are just below Wales' national average and at Key Stage 4 Level 2+ threshold outcomes match the Wales average figure. Improving outcomes at all Key Stages remains our focus. We aim to close the gap between the performance of Looked After Children and the rest of the school children in Cardiff.

### **IMPROVE AND SUPPORT THE EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

We know that Looked After Children are approximately four times more likely to have a mental disorder than children living in their birth families. It is also true that whilst some young people receive loving and nurturing care from consistent carers others can experience a lack of attention to their emotional needs. Young people can be let down by a system that does not always recognise their behaviour as a sign of distress and fails to provide them with support to develop secure attachments to their carers.

Research undertaken by the NSPCC (June 2015) identifies that Looked After Children are just over three times more likely to have a disorder than disadvantaged children and over five times more likely to have a diagnosed mental disorder than non-disadvantaged children. The high rate of behavioural disorders among Looked After Children is particularly striking, with almost two out of every five children having some kind of diagnosed behavioural disorder. This is a cause for concern as research suggests that children with disruptive and hyperactive behaviours are at particularly high risk of placement breakdown, as their carers can struggle to cope. In partnership with the University Health Board, we are keen to put this right and provide enhanced emotional well-being support for Looked After Children and their carers at the earliest opportunity.

The Looked after service within the University Health Board is led by a named doctor for Looked after Children, Adoption and Fostering. The team develops health services to improve health outcomes and ensure all looked after children have an up to date health plan, are up to date with childhood immunisations and are registered with a local dentist.

Nationally and locally there is a significant focus on the need to improve support for children and young people with Emotional and Mental Health issues. The Welsh Government has launched a national programme 'Together for Children and Young People' to focus on the whole range of services provided from early intervention through to specialist NHS CAMHS. In addition they have released funding to improve services and our Health Board partners are implementing new services and ways of working.

The developments being put in place locally include:



- An early emotional and mental health support service with easy and clear access to a range of supportive therapeutic interventions
- A Neurodevelopment team to focus on early diagnosis and support for children with difficulties such as Autistic spectrum disorder ( ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- A transition service for young people aged 14 – 25 with early psychosis
- Improved access to Psychological Therapies in specialist NHS CAMHS for those children with clear Mental Health issues
- A crisis intervention and liaison service.

We recognise that we need to develop and maintain a clear mental/emotional health profile of our looked after children working with our colleagues in health so that we understand the nature of their mental/emotional health needs in more detail. This will enable us to ensure looked after children to have better access to services for their emotional and mental health needs and reduce inequalities in the future.

### **CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Cardiff Children's Services has a key role as a Corporate Parent to ensure that all children in its care receive the care, stability, attention and opportunities that responsible parents provide to their own children. Cardiff Children's Services also has a role in leading and co-ordinating the work of partner agencies in Cardiff to ensure that we meet our collective responsibilities.

The central principle of Corporate Parenting is that we should seek for the children in our care the same outcomes that every good parent would want for their own child. This covers their education, health and welfare, what they do in their leisure time and holidays, how they celebrate their culture and how they receive praise and encouragement for their achievements. It also extends to providing appropriate support once young people have left care, including continued assistance around education, training or employment, and emotional and practical support.

Corporate Parenting is a responsibility for the whole Local Authority – all its members and all its officers. It is not limited solely to those services targeted at children. Cardiff's approach is for services across the Children's Services to work together and with partner agencies to bring together areas such as education, housing, employment and leisure.

(NSPCC 2015, <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/achieving-emotional-wellbeing-for-looked-after-children.pdf>)

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

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