

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

11 March 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

BRIGHT SPARKS AWARDS UPDATE

Reasons for the report

1. This report provides an update to the Committee of the annual Bright Sparks Awards ceremony and the Bright Sparks group.
2. The Bright Sparks Group is a participation group for children and young people aged between 11-25 who are looked after or care experienced.

Background

3. The Bright Sparks Group was started 18 years ago by two young people who were care leavers who wanted to create a space for children and young people to come together to take part in activities and services that affect their lives.

Issues

4. The Bright Sparks Awards are an annual event which are run by the Bright Sparks Group, to celebrate the achievements of care experienced children and young people.
5. In December 2023, over 200 people attended County Hall to take part in the prestigious event, including more than 50 children and young people, Children's Services Staff and Council Members.
6. There were several partners that made this year's event as special as it was, including The Into Work Service, Encon, Child Friendly City, NYAS and The Youth Service.
7. **Appendix 1** provides an overview of the event in more detail and also includes some details of the winners of each category.

Financial Implications

8. Children's Services allocate funding for the Bright Sparks Awards and additional provisions are purchased by internal and external partners as part of the corporate social responsibilities.

Legal Implications

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

10. To note the presentation outlined **Appendix 1** and explore ways in which the members can assist with support for the event in the future.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
21 February 2024

Appendix 1– Bright Sparks Awards Presentation Update