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AGENDA

Committee	CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Date and Time of Meeting	TUESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2016, 2.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM 3, COUNTY HALL
Membership	Councillor Lent (Chair) Councillors Kirsty Davies-Warner, De'Ath, Evans, Goddard, Merry, Sanders and White

1 **Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

To be made at the start of the agenda item in question, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3 **Minutes** (*Pages 1 - 6*)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the 17 November 2016

4 **Young Persons Gateway Project** (*Pages 7 - 8*)

A presentation will be made providing an overview of Young Persons Gateway project.

5 **Education Report/Item - Visual School Tracker**

Trevor Covey and Gilliam James, Achievement Leader, Closing the Gap will provide a presentation about the Cardiff Visual Tracker; a central tracking system that tracks Looked After Children's progress whatever school they are in, and answer Members questions.

6 **NYAS Advocacy and Independent Visiting Service Annual Report 2015** (*Pages 9 - 30*)

Elly Jones, National Youth Advocacy Service will be in attendance to present the report and answer Members questions.

7 Corporate Parenting Strategy (Pages 31 - 60)

Tony Young, Director Social Services, and Irfan Alam, Assistant Director Children's Services will be in attendance to present the report and answer Members questions.

8 Member Visits

The appendices to this report are confidential and not for publication by virtue of paragraph 12 of Part(s) 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Tony Young, Director Social Services will be in attendance to present the report and answer Members questions.

9 Forward Plan/Work Programme 2015/2016 (Pages 61 - 64)

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

10 Regulation 32 Report (Pages 65 - 94)

The item, report and appendices are confidential and not for publication by virtue of paragraph 12 of Part(s) 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

11 Date of next meeting - 1 March 2016 @ 2.00 pm

**Marie Rosenthal
Director Governance and Legal Services**

Date: Wednesday, 20 January 2016

Contact: Mandy Farnham, 02920 872618, Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

17 NOVEMBER 2015

Present: County Councillor White (Chairperson)
County Councillors Kirsty Davies-Warner, De'Ath, Merry

48 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Lent, Evans and Sanders.

(In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair it was agreed that Councillor White would Chair this meeting)

49 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Kirsty Davies-Warner to the Committee.

50 : MINUTES

The minutes of the 22 September 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

51 : CONNECT CROSSLANDS CHILDREN'S HOME MODEL OF CARE

The Chair welcomed Tony Young, Director Social Services, Siobhan Teague, together with Janice Moreland, Angharad Rees and Nadine Hunter from Crosslands Children's Home in Cardiff.

Members were provided with a presentation explaining Connect, the home's model of care. The Committee were informed that solid foundations were key in developing the Connect Model of Care. The staff are very experienced and are engaged in a constant programme of training and consolidation in practice, together with the support from the PROACT-SCIPr-UK Instructor on a regular basis.

Members were advised that Crosslands' positive reputation is generated mainly by the experience that young people and their associated professionals have while the young person is living at the home. Staff endeavor to ensure young people experience care that is secure, stable, and safe.

Members were provided with examples of goodbye albums that are done for all their young people focusing on their positive experiences and memories, it being something that they can keep forever.

The Chairperson thanked the officers for their presentation and having visited Crosslands herself thought a visit there was a very pleasant and worthwhile experience.

52 : REGULATION 32 REPORT - CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

This item was not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and pursuant to paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A. It was RESOLVED that the public would be excluded for consideration of this item.

Debbie Martin-Jones, Operational Manager Looked After Children was in attendance to present this item.

RESOLVED: To note the information contained in the Regulation 32 reports.

53 : NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

The Chairperson welcomed Suzanne Griffiths, Director of Operations, National Adoption Service to the Committee.

Members were provided with a presentation which gave an outline of the following:

- the reasoning behind the establishment of the National Adoption Service;
- the framework for organising and delivering adoption services across Wales, focusing on National, Regional and Local involvement;
- the aims and objectives;
- the first year's achievements and performance improvements; and
- targets and priorities for 2015/2016.

The Committee viewed a video made by adopted young people expressing their views;

1. they want support to understand their emotions;
2. people do not understand adoptions;
3. they are bullied because they are adopted;
4. they want to know about their past and adoption; and
5. more support around Birth Family Contact.

The Committee were advised that adopters also have a number of concerns, for example, obtaining therapy for the child, for example access to CAMHS, getting support in school, in both primary and secondary schools and contact with Birth Parents.

Tony Young, Director Social Services provided the Committee with some updated information in relation to the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative. It has been operational since June 2015, there have been some difficulties in transferring staff however it is an improving picture. Recruitment of prospective adopters has been prioritised. In 2014/2015, 74 adopters were approved and 112 children were placed.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

Members requested information in relation to the number of adoptions which have broken down and whether this is because children are being placed more quickly. Members were advised that there is a figure of 3% breakdowns in Wales, and whilst the number of breakdowns is increasing, the percentage is decreasing. The

significant issue with maintaining the level is having the support services available; that is something the Looked After Children and Adoption Service share.

The Committee were advised that strategic level discussions are taking place in relation to the use of pupil deprivation grants for adopted children.

The Chairperson thanked Suzanne Griffiths for her attendance at the meeting, her presentation and answering questions from Members.

54 : EDUCATION MATTERS - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE IN CARDIFF SCHOOLS 2014 - 2015

The Chairperson welcomed Gillian James – Achievement Leader, Closing the Gaps Education to the meeting.

The Committee were provided with information on the report of looked after children's performance in Cardiff Schools 2014-2015.

The report provided an initial analysis of educational outcomes for the academic year 2014-2015 of Cardiff Looked After Children (LAC) in Cardiff Schools and identified the main strengths and shortcomings in performance.

The comparative performance of LAC was addressed and the following information noted:

- Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator – Cardiff LAC 2015 provisional – 75%
- Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator – Cardiff LAC 2015 provisional – 56%
- Key Stage 3 Core Subject Indicator – Cardiff LAC 2015 – provisional – 38%
- Key Stage 2 Level 2+ Threshold – Cardiff LAC 2015 – provisional – 17.1%

The Committee noted the overall improvement in Cardiff.

The Committee were advised of the factors impacting on outcomes, namely:

- Over the last year there has been a concerted effort to focus on increasing the transparency of data and a robust tracking system is now in place.
- A stronger working relationship between the Local Authority and the consortium is ensuring that schools receive the appropriate degree of challenge. Challenge advisers have the names of all LAC pupils so that they can challenge individual performance.
- Stronger, effective partnerships with Children's Services have ensured quicker responses to concerns and barriers impeding pupil progress.
- The progress of and provision for Looked After Children is now discussed in Team Around the School (TAS) meetings and ways forward agreed if revisions need to be made.

The Committee were advised that those figures contained, on the whole, Looked After Children from Cardiff as opposed to those placed in Cardiff.

Members were informed that a thematic review had been undertaken of three schools, reviewing the personal education plans, the traineeship schemes and the virtual tracker. The feedback from that review has been very positive.

RESOLVED: To note that a further update on progress would be provided at the next meeting.

55 : Q2 COMPLAINTS AND REPRESENTATIONS REPORT 2015 - 16

The Chairperson welcomed Kim Brown, Service Manager, Policy and Performance to the meeting.

Members were provided with an update on Cardiff's Children's Services Complaints and Representations between 1 July 2015 through to 30 September 2015 (Quarter 2).

The Committee were provided with examples of two complaints received and resolved during the quarter.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

Members were advised that the complaint in relation to a young persons concern that she had not seen her allocated social worker was an isolated incident, in that both the Social Worker and Team Manager were on sick leave at the same time, once the case load has been transferred contact was made with the young person and the issue was resolved. The Committee were informed that procedures had been put in place to ensure that it does not happen again.

Members queried whether there is a time limit on action being taken if staff are on sick leave. Officers confirmed that the Team Manager will have systems in place to monitor the situation.

Members were advised that dealing with potential complaints by way of Early Resolution was not meant to trivialise the complaint(s) raised, however, some are borne out of frustration. However a record is kept of potential complaints and the outcome.

RESOLVED: To endorse the content of the report.

56 : Q2 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Kim Brown, Service Manager, Policy and Performance to the meeting who presented the report, the purpose of which was to enable the Committee to understand the factors that impact on outcomes for children in need and looked after children and also to enable them to consider opportunities for improving those outcomes.

The Committee were informed that there had been a reduction in the number of children placed in independent residential placements which equated to a reduction in costs.

There has been a significant improvement in the completion of pathway plans, due in part to the proactive approach taken by Children's Services in establishing additional personal advisor posts.

Members were advised that the Single Gateway for accommodation for vulnerable young adults is ready for implementation in Quarter 3.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Members queried the reduction in the 2014/15 figures of those young people entitled to leaving care services who had a pathway plan from those provided for 2013/14 and whether or not there was a target figure. Officers advised that targets were being missed, however some of the concerns as to whether Social Workers or Personal Advisors were responsible for completing the pathway plans have been addressed by the implementation of electronic systems. There has been an increase in the number of 16/17 year becoming care leavers in light of the Southwark Judgement. Members were also advised that the figures can be slightly artificial; if the young person becomes a care leaver 3 months after their 16th birthday they have already passed the target for the pathway plan.

The Committee questioned the figures provided regarding the health assessment for looked after children, whilst these figures had remained stable there had been a reduction in the number of looked after children registered with a GP within 10 days of the start of a new placement. Officers advised that the reduction is due to recording issues and that the information is under recorded.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

57 : DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN 2015 - 2016

Members were keen to be provided with a presentation on the Young Persons Gateway.

Whilst not on the Work Programme the Committee were advised that the Bright Sparks Ceremony is to take place at County Hall - Committee Rooms 1, 2 and 3 at 5.00 pm on Friday 11 December 2015 and that the Committee were invited to attend.

RESOLVED: To note the suggested work programme

58 : DISCUSSION ITEM - FEEDBACK ON WORKSHOP FROM 22 SEPTEMBER 2015

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee in January 2016.

59 : CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY - VERBAL UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update on the report. Officers advised that whilst a draft had been prepared the report was not yet ready to be considered by this Committee or the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

60 : MEMBER AND DIRECTOR VISITS TO FRONT- LINE TEAMS

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee in January 2016.

61 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on Tuesday 19 January 2015 @ 2.00 pm.

**CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF
DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26 January 2016

The Young Person's Gateway

Reasons for the Report

1. To provide an overview of the joint working with Homelessness and Children's Services to provide a single pathway for young persons aged 16 – 21 who are homeless or facing homelessness.

The Young Person's Gateway

2. On 6th October 2015 a young person's gateway was launched to provide a service for young persons who are homeless or facing homelessness. The gateway is managed jointly with Housing Options Service, Children's Services in conjunction with Llamau. The young person's gateway offers housing solutions for all young persons aged from 16 – 21 years. The service is offered to clients who are under a duty of Children's Services or homelessness legislation or those who are in need of supported accommodation within a young person project. The aim of the gateway is to provide the best housing solutions to young persons with the same pathway based on the young persons need irrespective of legal duties.
3. Once a young person is placed in suitable supported accommodation they will have a move on plan to develop their necessary skills with an aim to move them into settled accommodation. This will include moving into projects with lower support provision as their need decreases. The aim is that the young person will eventually when ready move into settled accommodation and independent living. Training flats are being sourced with a provision for tenancy training and floating support prior to the young person being offered a tenancy.

4. Details of the number of young people who have accessed the service since its launch, the help they have received and their movement through the gateway pathway will be provided within the presentation.

Financial Implications

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Legal Implications

6. Under the Children Act 1989 the Council is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within its area whom they assess as being in need. The Council shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who appears to them to require accommodation.
7. Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014) the Council must help to secure that suitable accommodation is available for occupation by an applicant if they are satisfied that the applicant is homeless and eligible for help.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- Note the report

SARAH MCGILL
Director Communities, Housing
& Customer Services

TONY YOUNG
Director of Children's Services

Date: 20/01/16



giving a voice to
children, young people
and vulnerable adults

rhoi llais i blant,
pobl ifanc ac oedolion
agored i niwed

NYAS

Cardiff Advocacy and Independent Visiting Service Annual Report 2015



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Background information

1. NYAS

NYAS is a UK charity providing socio-legal services. We offer information, advice, advocacy and legal representation to children, young people and vulnerable adults through a network of dedicated paid workers and volunteers throughout England and Wales.

NYAS provides specialist legal advice and assistance. NYAS is a legal aid agency provider for family law.

Through these services NYAS provides a safety net for children, young people and vulnerable adults, who have nowhere else to turn. We work within communities across the UK, with children, with young people, with adults, and with carers, local authorities and professionals such as social workers and lawyers.

2. Cardiff Advocacy and Independent Visiting Service

Remit and purpose

The Cardiff Advocacy scheme offers independent advocacy to all children and young people age 0-25 who are involved with Cardiff Children's Services. The purpose of the project is to enable and empower children and young people to have a voice, both individually and collectively and to effectively participate within decision making processes. We always support young people to advocate for themselves which increases their levels of confidence and self-esteem.

We work to ensure that the rights of children and young people involved with Cardiff Children's Services are upheld in accordance with the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

We provide issue based advocacy, whereby young people define what issues they want help with and decide how they wish to resolve these issues with the

help of their advocate. Once a young person's issue is resolved, or they decide they no longer want advocacy support their case is closed. However, children and young people can return to the project in the future if they require support around other issues.

Activities of the Project

- Provision of confidential and independent advice on young people's rights and entitlements. NYAS has its own dedicated team of child care lawyers who can support the service in delivering this aspect of the service
- Advocacy for young people e.g. support in preparing and /or attending meetings; negotiation with social services departments and other professionals; support in accessing a range of services; support through complaints processes etc.
- Regular visits to Crosslands Residential Unit in Cardiff
- Advocacy support to young people placed in out of county placements
- Consultation and participation work in order to influence the systems that affect the lives children and young people involved with Children's Services and ensure their voices are heard individually and collectively
- Training and consultancy to Children's Services where requested and agreed.

Referrals

The young person, social worker, carer or anyone else, can make referrals but advocacy work will not commence without the agreement of the young person. Referrals can be made via our national helpline or online via our secure website.

Independent Visiting Service

The Independent Visiting Service provides a long term adult befriender to Looked After Children and young people up to the age of 19 where it is deemed to be in their best interests. The process is young person led whereby they have to agree to the service at the outset and children and young people go through a matching process to ensure compatibility with a volunteer. Independent Visitors meet with young people on monthly basis and undertake activities for the purpose of relationship building

Funding Partners

A Service Level Agreement exists between NYAS and Cardiff Children's Services in relation to this Project

1. Introduction

NYAS were successful in being awarded the contract to provide advocacy and independent visitor services in 2015, the service commenced in the month of August 2015. The existing team of staff employed by the previous provider Tros Gynnal Plant transferred over to NYAS which ensured continuity of the service for children and young people in Cardiff. This report will focus on promotion and development of the service, emerging themes/ issues and corresponding recommendations made to Children's Services, Participation and consultation work, feedback from children and young people and delivery of the independent visiting service. The report will conclude with a summary of the services priorities for the next year.

2. Promotion, development and training

As a new provider of the advocacy and independent visiting service in Cardiff NYAS made it a priority at the outset of the contract to promote, raise awareness and develop the service, a publicity plan was devised to ensure widespread and targeted promotion was achieved. Promotional methods included:

- Updated information on all relevant portals such as the Sprout, Meic Helpline. Widespread dissemination of publicity materials both electronically and through direct mail outs to Children's Services and all other relevant organisations and agencies.
- Presentations to all social work teams within Children's Services, the Personal Advisor Service and IROs/Case Conference Chairs. NYAS also delivered presentations to the Children's Services Management Team and the Corporate Parenting Committee within the early months of the contract. The service was also promoted within private foster care agencies and a range of voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people.
- Letters devised making an active offer of advocacy to all children and young people eligible for the service. Agreement reached on how these would be disseminated by Children's Services on a routine basis.

- Induction on the advocacy service delivered to new social workers 3 times this year along with Family Intervention and Support Services and other agencies.
- Widespread recruitment of self-employed advocates has taken place this year; twenty self-employed advocates have successfully completed comprehensive training, induction and mentoring process with NYAS. Many of these self-employed advocates have undertaken work with children and young people in Cardiff, whom have benefitted from having a pool of workers with diverse range of expertise.
- We have had a strategic presence this year within Children's Services through sitting on the Corporate Parenting Committee, Cardiff and the Vale Local Safeguarding Children's Board Communication and Participation sub group as well as the main LSCB .

3. Themes, Issues and Recommendations

NYAS worked with a total of 285 children and young people this year and provided advocacy representation in relation to 353 issues. The largest referral source this year was looked after children closely followed by child protection. A number of themes and issues have emerged through undertaking advocacy casework with children and young people this year:

- It is positive that social workers have been proactive in referring children and young people to the service this year; however referrals from foster carers have been low. Due to their pivotal role in children and young people's lives they are clearly an important avenue through which children and young people who live with them can access the service, especially younger children or those who have additional needs who are more likely to find it difficult to access the service alone. NYAS have taken steps to promote the service to foster carers this year through attendance at a Lunch and Learn session with Cardiff foster carers. We have also delivered talks to

some private foster care agencies. We have also worked closely with Children's Services to incorporate training on advocacy and independent visiting within the mandatory foster carer training which will be taken forward within the next year of the service.

- Referrals for Children in Need have been disappointingly low this year; this is despite widespread promotion within Children's Services. We are hoping that letters devised by NYAS for Children in Need will result in greater awareness of the service once these are distributed by Children's Services on a routine basis. We also recommend that the proposal to create the role of "advocacy champion" within Children's Services is taken forward within the next year.
- Providing advocacy representation within child protection meetings has become our biggest area of work. In undertaking this work some common issues have arisen. It has often proved difficult to gain consent from parents for younger children to access the service and younger children have therefore been denied a voice within child protection decision making processes. It has also proved commonplace for many children and young people to be unaware of why they are subject to child protection processes at the outset of the advocacy intervention, the service has therefore recommended that social workers have a clear and honest discussion with children and young people prior to an advocacy referral being made.

The service has also experienced difficulties with communication with some social workers. This on occasions has resulted in advocates being unable to engage with children and young people in time for their meetings. In response to these difficulties NYAS have recommended that a working protocol is devised and implemented which would seek to provide best practice within this area of service delivery.

- The vast majority of these issues were dealt with through informal negotiation with decision makers. Where issues could not be resolved informally children and young people were supported to make a complaint to Children's Services. 21 complaints were made this year, nearly half of complaints were around being unhappy with social work support, with children and young people either being unhappy with lack of contact, their relationship or having numerous social workers over a short period of time. Other complaints concerned issues such as placement moves, being unhappy with a personal advisor and lack of contact with a parent. All complaints were stage 1 informal complaints. One young person was supported to make a stage 2 complaint about a decision made by another Local Authority.

The advocacy service has worked closely with the Complaints Officer which has proved productive in resolving children and young people's complaints, however a period over the summer saw a drift in complaints being resolved due to systems failures, this was fed back to Children's Services who have acknowledged the need to better embed and strengthen their complaints processes to ensure that complaints are resolved within the necessary timeframes.

4. Participation and Consultation

NYAS have seen it as a priority to ensure the wider voices of children and young people are heard in relation to the planning, delivery and evaluation of services. The service has a contracted participation worker who has taken the lead in this area of work but we have also put additional staffing resources in place to strengthen this aspect the service.

- The beginning of the year saw the continuation of our Looked After Newsletter Group who produced a newsletter which was distributed to all looked after children and young people age 11 plus. However, through consultation with group members and Children's Services it was decided to create a general participation group for children and young people. This has enabled young people who are not looked

after to join the group and has provided greater opportunity for children and young people to have a say in the planning, delivery and evaluation of Children's Services. Key achievements of the group this year have been:

- Design of publicity materials to promote the group to new members
 - Participation in the ACRF reporting framework whereby an event was held at County Hall in June. Prior to the event the young people were supported to devise a number of questions through scrutinising the Director's Report. On the day of the event these questions were then put to a panel which included the Director of Children's Services, Operational Management and Cardiff Councillors. The event was a great success and young people's contributions were incorporated into the reporting process.
 - Review and redesign of Children's Services Fostering Handbook for children and young people.
- NYAS has continued to have a strategic presence in Wales through regular attendance on the Advocacy Providers Group and through attending the Task and Finish Group within the Welsh Government that will look to take forward the national approach to statutory advocacy in Wales.

5. Feedback from Children and Young People

NYAS aim to achieve 100% feedback from children and young people at the point of case closure. This year the Cardiff Service closed 194 issues and received feedback from children and young people by way of feedback forms, feedback 1-5 scale and verbal feedback from children and young people.

Quantitative feedback from young peoples completed evaluation forms is presented in the accompanying RBA report. Further feedback received from young people this year is included in appendices 1 and 2.

6. Independent Visiting Service

Five volunteer independent Visitors transferred over to NYAS from the previous provider Tros Gynnal Plant providing continuity to those young people they were volunteering with. The initial agreed number of matches within the contract was 12 this was subsequently increased to 20, as it was felt that we had capacity to provide the service to a greater number of young people. Key achievements and challenges this year include:

- NYAS provided independent visitors to eight young people this year and recruited and trained nine new volunteers.
- These eight young people have greatly benefitted from having an independent visitor in their lives; several young people were supported by their independent visitor within important times of transition such as leaving care and change of placement. One young person has particularly benefitted from the work her independent visitor has done with her in compiling a scrapbook of memories of visits and activities that they have undertaken together. NYAS carried out a small scale review of the service this year whereby feedback from young people, foster carers and social workers was overwhelmingly positive about the service.
- The Manager and Coordinator have taken steps to promote the service through distributing leaflets to the Social Work Teams and LAC Review Chairs as well as delivering presentations to the Social Work Teams and Independent Reviewing Officers. However, despite widespread promotion of the service, we have received only 6 referrals this year from social workers. Further promotion and training needs to be undertaken to ensure that social workers have a good understanding of the role and eligibility criteria.

- The service has experienced some difficulties in matching young people who are placed out of county, widespread efforts have been made to promote within out of county areas and work in partnership with other NYAS services where possible.
- NYAS see it as a priority to raise the profile of the service in the next year and provide regular feedback to Children's Services on the progress of the independent visitor relationship whilst maintaining the independence and confidentiality of this unique relationship.

7. Conclusion and priorities for next year

This has been an extremely busy year for NYAS. Widespread promotion and awareness raising has resulted in a high number of referrals to the service. We have delivered a quality advocacy service to a number of vulnerable children involved with Cardiff Children's Services. These young people have been supported with a wide range of issues, with the majority of these issues been resolved through informal processes of challenge and negotiation.

We have also provided a regular visiting advocacy service to Crosslands Residential Unit on a monthly basis this year. The advocate has engaged well with the children and young people and has been able to inform children and young people about the service and receive any referrals in person during these visits. Participation work within the project has also been developed to ensure a greater number of young people can participate and have a voice on the systems that impact upon their lives. Children and young people's wider issues have also been highlighted on a routine basis through our strategic involvement with the Corporate Parenting Committee and Cardiff and Vale LSCB as well as our contract monitoring arrangements with Children's Services.

The Independent Visitor Service has been promoted and developed this year, new volunteers have been recruited and 8 young people have been in receipt of this valuable service.

We have identified a number of priorities for the following year which we believe will further enhance and develop the service to children and young people in Cardiff:

- Work in partnership with Cardiff Children's Services to increase the number of referrals from Children in need including children and young people with disabilities. Develop the role of "advocacy champions" within Children's Services in a bid to increase referrals.
- Deliver training on advocacy and children's rights to social workers and foster carers as part of Cardiff and the Vale training programme
- Increase referrals to support and represent children and young people's views, wishes and feelings in relation to Special Guardianship Orders.
- Work jointly with Children's Services to implement a working protocol on providing advocacy for children and young people within the Child Protection process.
- Provide value added services to Cardiff children and young people through NYAS Peer Mentoring Services.
- Increase feedback on the service from children and young people through widespread implementation of NYAS outcomes framework.
- Recruit new members to our Participation Group and undertake specific pieces of work with children and young people within the Child Protection process and where able work collaboratively with Cardiff and the Vale LSCB.
- Improve upon Independent Visitor matching for out of county young people

- Promote the Independent Visiting Service and strengthen communication with social workers in relation to existing matches.
- Continue to ensure children and young people's issues are regularly fed back to Children's Services through contract monitoring, attendance at Corporate Parenting Committee, membership of Cardiff and the Vale LSCB and participation and consultation events.

Children and Young People's Feedback

Appendix 1

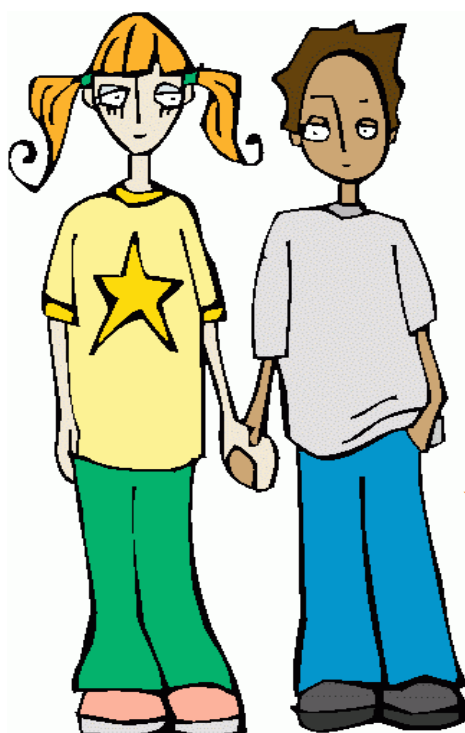
Very informed, you know what you are talking about and very efficient

X is Cool!

I feel people listened to my wishes and feelings and what I wanted

I felt people listened to my wishes

Advocate helped the situation and NYAS



I know how to contact advocacy if I have any issues or need help at a meeting

I think you are really good coming

I think NYAS should be more involved by visiting more often

I will use an advocate in the future

Happy for X to contact me on email

I want to say thanks for all the help X has been good every time. I need her she comes to see me. I know she is there.

Thank you X, thank you for being my advocate

Thank you X, I will be in touch when I am ready to take things further

I don't know if I need to see X

Thank you for helping me again, I will call you if something comes up

NYAS made it better

Want feedback from mum not Advocate – nice worker, wouldn't want to see her again

X helps me a lot

I like X visiting and talking to me about things

Thank you for working with me you really make a start in my life. Thank you

I do need to see X

It really helped, thank you X

Happy for the Advocate to contact me after the meeting

You helped a lot thank you

I feel that X listens to me and I trust X more than my old Advocate. X is always there when something is wrong

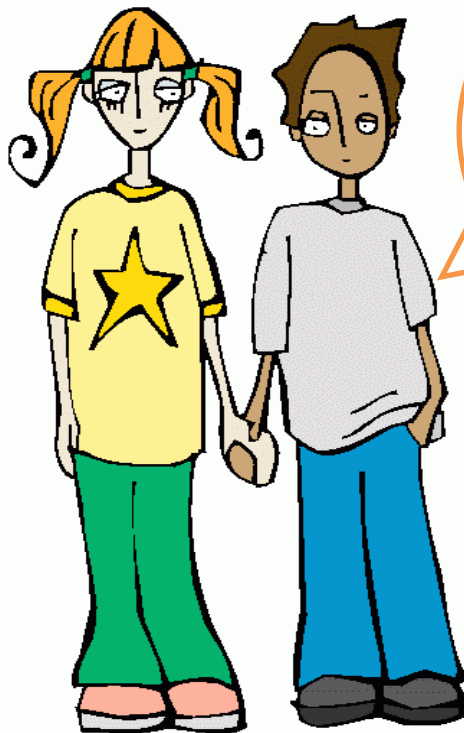
Don't want to see you again

I will contact X if I have any more problems

I am happy for X to come to my meeting and speak for

Having an Advocate has helped me understand what is happening

I like that you listen to me



D is a looked after young person living at home under Placement with Parents Regulations 1991. D has a learning disability, and has been assessed as having special educational needs. D had worked with the same advocate previously around ensuring his wishes and feelings were heard within care proceedings. D asked for the same advocate to help him again because he wanted the local authority to now discharge his care order, D said:

“I want the care order to be taken off. I have been home over a year and I am 16 and everything is going good, I don't need it. I don't want to have LAC reviews, I don't want a Social Worker, and I don't want someone coming to see me to weigh me. It makes me feel sad and embarrassed. Being on a care order really worries me because I feel if one little thing goes wrong I will be taken away again. I get so worried sometimes that I get nose bleeds. Even a letter through the door from social services about my LAC review or someone is coming to see me makes me start worrying and stressing. Please can it be taken off?”

What the advocate did

- Met with D and clarified the issue and current situation, taking into account their communication needs
- Explored options with D to seek resolution to the issue.
- Informed D of implications of discharge of Care Order
- Agreed course of Action with D
- Wrote report of D's wishes and feelings for LAC Review
- Supported and represented D at LAC Review
- Followed up D's request for discharge of Care Order with Social Worker after the review as well as other issues raised.
- Informed D of feedback from Children's Services
- Met with D at close of issue to carry out evaluation of advocacy intervention and to ensure D happy with outcome.

Outcomes

- D better informed of rights, entitlements and legal implications
- Wishes and feelings made known to decision makers
- Representation within LAC Review Meeting
- Local Authority made the decision to apply for care order to be discharged.

R is 16 and living in an out of county children's home. They contacted advocacy because they were unhappy with plans to move him from the children's home into a hostel. R wanted to move into their own flat instead which was near to his place of work.

What the advocate did

- Met with R and listened to their views, wishes and feelings and clarified the issue, including reasons why Social Services objected to this and his view on this.
- Explored options with R as to how best this could be taken forward. R wanted a meeting with their Social Worker and support from his advocate to put his views across.
- Advocate identified that R did not have a Personal Advisor and agreed to also take this forward
- Advocate supported R in their meeting and helped him to self-advocate. They explained to his Social Worker that he felt he had the necessary independent living skills, and would cope much better independently, believing their mental health would be affected if they moved into hostel accommodation. The Advocate also supported R to explain to residential staff who were called into the meeting what R's preferences were
- The Advocate highlighted R's rights and entitlements within the meeting and sought agreement from the Social Worker about what payments and benefits R would receive. After the meeting the Advocate continued to liaise with R's Social Worker regarding living arrangements and kept R informed of progress.
- On close of the issue the Advocate evaluated the advocacy intervention and ascertained whether R had any further issues.

Outcomes

- Professionals were made aware of the young person's wishes and feeling, primarily through the young person self-advocating with support.
- The young person was made aware of their leaving care rights and entitlements
- Social Services agreed that the young person could move into a flat that they had found, and financially support them to do so. Residential staff agreed in the meeting to provide outreach support to the young person to help with the transition.
- On close of this issue the young person approached the advocate to support him with a new issue.

The service received a referral to provide advocacy representation for a sibling group of 5. The three male children/young people were allocated to a Male Advocate whilst the two female children/young people were allocated to a female advocate. This was a particularly challenging case in that the one child had made allegations against a family member and the service needed to be mindful that there would be no conflict in each advocate representing each child/young person's views wishes and feelings.

What the Advocate(s) did

- Met with each child separately within school setting. This was important to enable them to freely express their views wishes and feelings away from the family home. Each Advocate explained about their role, confidentiality and its limits as well as their right to raise any concerns about the advocacy service. . The children/young people were able to discuss their views, wishes and feelings on a wide range of issues including who they wanted to live with, contact with the alleged abuser, relationship with mum and school. One of the children was of a very young age (age 5) and the advocate used a range of age appropriate tools to ascertain their views wishes and feelings for the Review Case Conference. Advocates were also able to further explain the child protection process to them, explaining the purpose of the meeting, who would attend, and how they wished to be involved.
- Each child/young person's views wishes and feelings were written up in report format and checked for accuracy
- Advocates represented the children /young people within the case conference, due to either the child/young person not wanting to directly participate or this not being age appropriate for the youngest children especially given the fact there was conflict between the parents.
- Advocate fed back to each child/young person what was discussed at the meeting and what the outcomes were, as well as explaining next steps in the process.
- The children and young people's cases were closed following visits as they felt there was not a further role for advocacy. The children and young people were asks to evaluate the service and provide feedback and were reminded of how they could access the service again if needed.

Outcomes

Appendix 4

- The children and young people were able to participate and have a voice with the child protection process within particularly complex and emotive circumstances.
- The children and young people were made further aware of child protection processes and their rights.
- The children and young people fed back to their advocates that they felt pleased they were listened too and that family members understood better where they were coming from. Mum fed back to one of the advocates that she felt the advocacy process had been very empowering for her children stating "Thank you so much for all the brilliant work you have done with my children, at the meeting it was like I'd closed my eyes and the kids were their speaking when you read out your report. X doesn't speak to anyone so I'm so glad he opened up to you, and to be able to hear X's voice was really emotional. Thank you". The social worker also feedback to the advocate that our intervention had been very much valued.

The service received a referral to provide advocacy representation for D who has communication difficulties around their wishes and feelings about placement. The social worker was concerned that D was unhappy with a proposed move to foster care. D's parents were reluctant for the service to be involved from the outset, and wanted to be present when meetings were taking place with the young person and advocate. The social worker was able to explain the role of advocacy to the parents and stress the importance of D having someone to voice his views wishes and feelings which enabled the advocacy process to go ahead .

What the advocate did

- Liaised with the social worker and school about D's communication needs prior to visiting D,
- Met with D and used microphone to aid Ds hearing and used worksheets to gather Ds views, wishes and feelings when verbal communication proved difficult due to Ds speech difficulties.
- Views, wishes and feelings were gathered into a report for the pending LAC Review which the advocate forwarded to the social worker with the young person's agreement.
- Review was cancelled, advocate therefore fed back D's views wishes and feelings around placement to their social worker making social worker aware of Ds concerns and the need for plans around placement to be clarified with D The advocate visited D again because of time lapse to ensure D had the opportunity to provide any new input for their rescheduled LAC Review.

Outcomes

- Through the advocacy process D was able to explain to his advocate that they wanted to move from a residential placement as they were not happy there, but also that they were very worried that a move to foster placement would mean that he would never return home. The social worker was able to explain to D that this was not the case and the plan was still for D to return home when improvements had been made.
- D gained a better understanding of their rights within the looked after system
- D's views wishes and feelings formally fed into LAC Review process.
- Parents gained a better understanding of advocacy and its importance for their child.

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**CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

Reason for this Report

1. To set out the Council's proposed Corporate Parenting Strategy and seek the Committee's approval prior to submission to Cabinet

Background

2. When a child comes into care, the council becomes the Corporate Parent. Put simply, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the Council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguards for the children who are looked after by the council.
3. The 'Review of the Status and Roles of Corporate Parenting in Cardiff Council (May 2014)' set out a number of key recommendations, one of them being the development of a 'Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee' in order to raise the profile of Corporate Parenting within the local authority. The review further recommended that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council and identified two main advantages. First, it bestows status on the Committee and secondly the Deputy Leader has a clear line of sight over the different Cabinet portfolios and possesses the authority to ensure that all service areas work together in the interests of our young people.
4. One of the key responsibilities for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee was to commission the development of a cogent and deliverable Corporate Parenting strategy which sets out the commitment the Council has for the children in its care.
5. Children and young people in the care of the Council have been consulted on the development of this strategy. They have said that they want to be supported to achieve their potential, they want their parents to have received more support and they want to be listened to. Taking these views in to account, this strategy sets out the combined

commitment from the University Health Board, Social Services, Housing and Communities and Education and Lifelong Learning Directorates to:

- 'Narrowing the gap' so that looked after children achieve their full potential
 - Improving services so that fewer children need to enter the looked after system
 - Listening to looked after children and improving their experiences of care wherever.
6. At the end of 2014, Cardiff had 1576 Children in Need, 297 children subject to a child protection plan and 651 looked after children. At the end October 2015, Cardiff had 1276 children in Need, 330 children subject to a child protection plan and 630 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.
7. The City of Cardiff Council has the same goals for the children it looks after as those of any good parent, and takes seriously the moral as well as legal responsibility for enabling the children in its care to experience happy and fulfilling lives. This Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our aspirations for looked after children and young people and supports that delivery of the Corporate Plan Priority 2: *Supporting Vulnerable People* and will contribute to achieving the following Corporate Plan Outcome: *People in Cardiff are safe and those at risk are safeguarded.*

Reason for Recommendations

8. Under primary legislation the Council has responsibilities and a positive role to play as the Corporate Parent for Looked After Children in the care of the Council. The proposed Corporate Parenting Strategy will act as the key policy platform outlining how the Council will discharge its responsibilities and prioritise delivery of services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

Financial Implications

9. The report seeks approval for a Council corporate parenting strategy. Whilst, much of the strategy can be implemented without any direct financial impact, certain of the proposals will require an initial additional resource; albeit the costs should ultimately be offset via a reduction in the number of looked after children. Notably, early intervention proposals relating to an adolescent resource centre and other family support have been identified as cost pressure bids that form part of the initial budget proposals for 2016/17. These are also reflected in related savings submissions linked to a reduction in the looked after children population. These proposals will therefore form part of the 2016/17 budget report and will be subject to the approval of Council. Any further initiatives linked to this strategy will also need to be fully costed and will require budget approval.

Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate)

10. The Children Act 1989 placed the statutory responsibility on the council to provide accommodation and services for looked after children. The Care Standards Act 2002 and associated regulations define the operation of local authority fostering and adoption services.
11. As mentioned previously in this report, the Council has a statutory duty in respect of delivering its Corporate Parenting Responsibilities and in ensuring sufficient and suitable placements for looked after children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to endorse the strategy for submission to Cabinet.

Tony Young
Date 10.12.2015

The following appendices are attached:

Appendix A: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-2019

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Corporate Parenting Strategy

September 2016 - 2019



Corporate Parenting Strategy

FOREWORD – LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ARE OUR PRIORITY

This strategy falls within **Corporate Plan Priority 2: *Supporting Vulnerable People.***

It also contributes to achieving the following **Corporate Plan Outcome:**

People in Cardiff are safe and those at risk are safeguarded.

This strategy sets out the shared vision of the City of Cardiff Council and the University Health Board for Looked After Children. We are committed to work together as effective and trustworthy corporate parents for any child or young person who is in our care irrespective of their age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or disability.

Every good parent knows that children require a safe and secure environment in which to grow and thrive. Parents protect and support their children against the dangers and risks of life. Parents are ambitious for them and want them to reach their potential. Parents celebrate and share in their achievements.

A child who is cared for by the Council has the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a good parent.

This strategy 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.
- Listening to looked after children and improving their experience of care wherever possible as a result.

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 to improve services for those children whose needs require them to become looked after by the local authority. Many are services that already exist in Cardiff but which will be enhanced in terms of their impact because the strategy brings all of those services together into a coherent whole system. For example, services such as Child Adolescent Mental

Health Services, Families First, Youth Services and Flying Start will 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 two important groups of children in Cardiff over the next five years.

Firstly those many children whose life chances will improve because it will mean that the needs of fewer children will be met through statutory interventions in the Looked After system or in the criminal justice system. More children will be able to enjoy family life in their own homes.

Secondly and above all, this strategy will prioritise those who nevertheless need to be looked after for whatever reason. At the time of writing the population of Looked After Children in Cardiff stands at 628 and it is the outcomes and experiences of the children in this population at any one time, that will improve because of this strategy.

Tony Young
Director of Social Services
Chair - Vulnerable Children and Families Programme Board

Statement from Councillor Lent

I am pleased to introduce this Corporate Parenting Strategy for The City of Cardiff Council. This Corporate Parenting Strategy is not an end in itself; it provides an agreed direction of travel and a common commitment for children in our care. We will work in partnership to fulfil our statutory duty as corporate parents to nurture, respect and be ambitious for our looked after children and young people as we would for our own children.

As the deputy leader for the council and cabinet member for Children's Services, I am clear that the wellbeing of our looked after children and young people is of the

highest priority. As statutory partners we have a particular duty of care to all our looked after children and young people.

We know that looked after children and young people are amongst the most vulnerable in our community, and that all too often their life chances are restricted. We have a responsibility and a commitment to changing this pattern.

Through implementation of this strategy, we will strive to ensure that our looked after children and young people have the best possible start in life that we can deliver. We will support and care for them as they grow up and take their first steps towards independence. We will also make sure that we continue to be there for our young people as they enter early adulthood, just as any responsible parent would.

Councillor Lent

Deputy leader and Cabinet member for children and families

Corporate Parenting

When a child becomes "looked after" the role of being a parent becomes the corporate responsibility of the County Council. This is known as Corporate Parenting and is the term used to describe how the County Council and its partners collectively fulfil their responsibilities to all children and young people who are in their care by seeking exactly the same positive outcomes that every good parent would want for their own children.

Effective Corporate Parenting requires ownership and leadership at a senior level within the council, including elected members.

The City of Cardiff Council's Corporate Parenting mission statement is:

"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. By the end October 2015, Cardiff had 1276 children in Need, 330 children subject to a child protection plan and 630 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.

Too many looked after children are living away from Cardiff and we recognise that at times there have been missed opportunities to prevent some children entering the care system. To address this, an Early Help strategy was launched in October 2015 which provides guidance for everyone who works with children, young people and their families in Cardiff in order that everyone can work together to ensure that children and families receive the help and support they need at the right time and in the right way.

There are dedicated services for looked after children within the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, City of Cardiff Council's Education and Children's Services Directorates all of which work closely together and promote an ethos in which staff consider it their responsibility to ensure that 'our children' receive the best services and achieve the best outcomes possible. But we know more needs to be done to align our strategic priorities to reflect our commitment to looked after children.

The Strategy

This strategy has been coproduced with colleagues in health and education and is underpinned by the following **principles**:

1. Effective early intervention and prevention
2. Safely reducing the number of looked after children
3. Promoting permanency
4. Providing high quality placements
5. Continuing to improve services for children with disabilities, including short break care
6. Improve the education and attainment and achievement for all looked after children

7. Improve and support the emotional health and mental wellbeing of looked after children
8. Provide young people leaving care with appropriate preparation for adult life, taking account of all of their needs including their well being
9. Strengthening the role of the corporate parenting advisory committee.

1. Effective early intervention and prevention

The Cardiff Partnership launched its Early Help strategy in October 2015. At the heart of the strategy which seeks to make prevention everyone's business, are the following two strategic objectives:

Strategic Objective 1

- Ensure that children and young people receive help at the lowest level or intervention that is safe and effective in promoting good outcomes.

Strategic Objective 2

- Maximise the impact of Children's (Social) Services by strengthening the effectiveness of social work intervention and specialist / targeted family support.

In Cardiff we believe that every child and young person should have the opportunity to reach their potential. We recognise that outcomes for children are best when they are supported to grow and achieve within their own families and community as families understand their own children. We know from practice and research that effective early intervention and prevention enable more children to remain at home as families can be supported to address concerns and risks much earlier before they become a crisis, however we recognise that 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.

2. Safely reducing the number of looked after children

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 high profile cases, 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.

Children can become Looked After for the following reasons:

- 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 Judgement (16 and 17 year olds assessed as children in need due to being homeless or at risk of being homeless).
- As the subject of a 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 vast majority of children become looked after as a result of a legal intervention by the local authority under the Public Law Outline.

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 sixteen 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.

Safely reducing the number of children in care is dependent upon:

- a. Effective risk management frameworks*

Cardiff Children's Services are committed to introducing the **Signs of Safety** risk assessment model. The Signs of Safety approach describes itself as a relationship-grounded, safety organised child protection framework designed to help families build safety for children by allowing those families to demonstrate their strengths over time. For example, when working with a parent who misuses substances, the signs of safety approach will seek to manage the substance misuse behaviour and minimise risks to the child whilst change occurs as opposed to setting unrealistic expectations in which change may not occur. This approach also helps practitioners realise that removal of risks is not always necessary when protective factors can be enhanced provided that these are commensurate with the needs of the child.

In addition to the Signs of Safety model, we will adopt a **restorative approach** when working with families. Working restoratively means valuing relationships and working with others in ways that promotes respect, trust and belonging. When working restoratively conflicts are resolved through communication and shared problem solving. Everyone is accountable for their actions and the impact of those actions; when harm is caused everyone involved has the opportunity to look at how to take things forward and repair relationships. This approach will complement the Signs of Safety framework and will reflect the approach adopted by the Education directorate.

We have also commissioned the provision of **family group conferences**. A family group conference is a process led by family members to plan and make decisions for a child who is assessed to be at risk. The aim is to support families to find their own solutions to problems: the family members are the decision-makers rather than the professionals; the 'family' is the primary planning group. Families, including extended family members are assisted by an independent family group conference coordinator to prepare for the meeting. At the first part of the meeting, social workers and other professionals set out their concerns and what support could be made available. In the second part of the meeting family members then meet on their own to make a plan for the child. Three quarters of local authorities in England and Wales currently run or commission family group conferences for children in their area or are planning to do so.

It is important that partner agencies are engaged in the Signs of Safety risk assessment framework and working restoratively. We will communicate our approaches to partner agencies and invite key partners to join us in our approach. These approaches will enable social workers to respond to risks more creatively as opposed to adopting the traditional methods of removal as means of risk management. However, whilst our focus is to keep children safely supported at home with their

parents, we are clear that where parenting is not good enough despite our best endeavours, we will make use of the legal surgery to make long term care planning decisions in order to avoid delay.

b. Targeted provision children aged 11 plus

In Cardiff, in the twelve months to 31st March 2015, 163 children aged eleven plus became looked after, of these 132 children were accommodated via Section 20 of the Children Act 1989. 13 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. Our experience tells us that these young people are more likely to require specialist fostering or residential placements in order to safely manage the entrenched challenging behaviour that many of these young people display within the home environment. There is limited availability of such placements locally and consequently, these young people are more likely to be placed at a distance from Cardiff, in external placements. These placements place huge financial costs on the Local Authority, not to mention the emotional costs to these young people of being placed away from family and friends and their local community. In response to this need we are in the process of developing an **Adolescent Resource Centre** (ARC) which is expected to provide a more cost-effective solution that will achieve better outcomes for young people and their families.

The ARC will provide intensive support for young people at risk of becoming Looked After, who present such challenges that they would otherwise be placed in costly external agency placements. A feature of this service is integrated support from a range of Local Authority partners such as the Youth Service, Youth Offending Service, Education, Health and Housing. The aims of this service are to:

- Reduce the number of young people being accommodated, and support them and their families to enable them to remain at home.
- Reduce the number of adolescents in children's homes, by providing support to young people and their Foster Carers to remain in their placements.

The ARC will provide a team of officers and salaried **Support Foster Carers**. The service will include outreach work and provide opportunities for family support both centre-based and in their own homes – including weekends and evenings, so that it is responsive to the changing need of the families receiving the service. The service

will also offer out of hours support to in-house foster carers who offer placements to young people who fall within the ARC's remit.

Each young person accessing the service will live at home with parents or carers who retain overall responsibility for them. Most crucially, those young people living at home with their parents will not fall into the category of being 'Looked After' when receiving the overnight stays.

c. Rehabilitating children back home when it is safe to do so

It is important that we rehabilitate children back home where it is safe to do so in a timely manner. **Independent Reviewing Officers** play a key role in this and are empowered to challenge care plans for children who remain subject to an Order unnecessarily. In addition, the **Operational Manager** together with the **Team Managers** for the **Looked After Children Service** make it their priority that those children placed at home under the auspices of a Care Order are reviewed and an application to discharge the Care Order is prioritised.

3. Promoting permanency

Routes to permanence include:

- Permanent return to birth parents
- Shared care arrangements, including regular short-break care
- Permanence within the looked after system, whether in residential placement unrelated foster care or family and friends care
- Legal permanence, through adoption, special guardianship orders and child arrangement orders.

We will ensure that all looked after children have a plan of permanence at the three month review and will consider more than one possible plan if needed in order to minimise delay.

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.

When our intervention has led to a child not being able to live with birth parents, 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 with. In these circumstances, such carers will be assessed in accordance with the '**Connected Persons**' regulations and the carers 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.

4. Providing high quality 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 from foster carers and how they make a positive difference to the lives of the looked after children they care 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 Service will play a key role in supporting the fostering service in order to attract new foster carers.

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. However, 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 of children 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 Service tracks all external placements via the external placements panel, however this needs to be stepped up to ensure that there are no unavoidable delays in moving young people back into in-house placements when appropriate via the Enhanced Fostering Scheme.

5. Continue to improve services for children with disabilities, including short break care

There is evidence that children with disabilities are more likely to become looked after, remain in care for longer and have a higher risk of being placed inappropriately in comparison to non-disabled children. To improve and maintain good practice in relation to these children, there is a dedicated **Child Health and Disability Team** and when children become looked after they remain within the specialist team and retain their social worker. This allows for the social workers to develop a relationship with the child or young person, understand their specific needs and where required commission bespoke services to meet such needs.

We work closely with adult services to ensure that those young people who require support beyond 18 years of age are transitioned in a timely manner, this applies to all care leavers with or without disabilities

To reflect our commitment to improving service for children and young people with disabilities, a project has been commissioned together with the appointment of a Change Manager to reshape services for children and young people with disabilities. The project will work with Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Vale UHB and Education partners in the vision of delivering on and improving outcomes for disabled children, young people, young adults and their families (0-25years) through a range of partnership projects. These outcomes will be improved by designing and implementing integrated service delivery across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. The project will implement common processes which are aligned across the local authority areas which will lead on to support the development and delivery of an integrated service of children with disabilities.

We know that 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.

6. Improve the education attainment and achievement for all looked after children

The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 places a duty on The City of Cardiff Council as a Corporate Parent to maximise the education, training and employment outcomes for children and young people leaving care.

The Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework places a duty on Local Authorities to;

- Strengthen employability skills and opportunities for employment
- Identify young people most at risk of disengagement
- Ensure provision meets the needs of young people

The City of Cardiff Council's Corporate Plan identifies the need for education and skills for all and highlights one of the ways of doing this is to ensure that *"Looked After Children in Cardiff achieve their full potential"*

We know from experience that looked after children and young people are 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.

Regular designated teacher forums ensure that these teachers are briefed and trained on relevant issues including attachment 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 looked after children in their schools and discuss their progress with the Headteacher. School Governors are briefed on their responsibilities as part of the Local Authority governor training programme.

We will work with partners in Health to ensure that children with emerging emotional and mental health difficulties are supported early, and play an active part in supporting the University Health Board to reshape those services.

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 Children 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, there has been an increase in the number of looked after children undertaking university education. There have been no permanent exclusions of looked after children for the past four years and the attendance of looked after children has improved.

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 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. This seeks to ensure:

- Strategic oversight of looked after children and their outcomes.
- Children are provided with Personal Education Plan which are monitored and reviewed regularly.
- Provision is in place at the right time and in the right place and in the most efficient and effective way.
- 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.
- School staff are able to access training and support to be able to identify and provide for the needs of looked after children appropriately.
- Foster Carers and Looked After Children Social Workers are aware of what works in improving educational outcomes.
- Looked After Children co-ordinators work together to identify innovation and what works across the region.

Outcomes for looked after children in the Foundation Phase 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.

In line with the Corporate Plan, a **Looked After Children's Traineeship Scheme** "was launched in May 2014 to provide care leavers with opportunities to secure work placements in Council departments and those already placed have acquired new work related skills. This supports wider efforts to ensure positive progression routes for all care leavers" (**The City of Cardiff Corporate Plan 2015-17**).

The remit of the scheme is to improve outcomes for young care leavers and those young people Looked After by the Local Authority by providing them with work experience and training that will improve their long term employment outcomes.

From March 2015 a dedicated Looked After Children and Care Leavers Traineeship Coordinator was recruited to a post in Children's Services and is now arranging placements throughout Cardiff Council for Young People who are Looked After or Leaving Care.

7. Improve and support the emotional health and mental well-being of looked after children

We know that there is an increased likelihood that looked after children are more likely to experience emotional and mental health issues than children living with 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 and mental health well-being support for looked after children and their carers at the earliest opportunity.

The Looked After Children's 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 **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services** (CAMHS). In addition they have released funding to improve services and University 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 fourteen to twenty five 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 have better access to

services for their emotional and mental health needs and reduce inequalities in the future.

It is accepted that the key to a stable placement is a young person's emotional health and well-being. Significant looked after children have additional emotional and mental health needs which are often not met in a timely manner. In 2014 a significant number of placements broke down, where the young person's poor mental health was considered as a contributing factor. We also know that in 2014, the directorate engaged independent psychologists, psychiatrists and therapists for assessments and therapeutic interventions for young people and their carers. This evidences a very clear need for a strategic approach to work with our partners in Health and Education to pilot a dedicated emotional health and well-being team for looked after children and our carers. The team will work with children, their carers, parents and professionals by undertaking a range of psychological assessments, provide therapeutic interventions, give advice about parenting, child behaviour and development, serious emotional, behavioural and relationship problems, past abuse, trauma and neglect. The focus will be on working out what each individual child needs and enabling that to be incorporated within their overall care plan. The specification for this service will be developed with partners in Education and Health with a view to a pilot commencing in June 2016.

8. Provide young people leaving care with appropriate preparation for adult life, taking account of all of their needs including their well being

In consultation with young people Children's Services have updated and improved the **Pathway Plan** document and all relevant staff have received best practice training. The revised the pathway plan review process will ensure that pathway plans are formally reviewed.

In partnership with the housing department we have created and developed a single point of access for young people's accommodation provision. This demonstrates corporate responsibility for proving suitable housing provision for young people including care leavers.

The council is committed to supporting young people who remain in foster placement post 18 in line with '**When I'm Ready**' guidance. We have made provisions for foster carers to support young people beyond the age of 18 where appropriate.

To reflect our commitment to young people leaving care, Children's Services have increased the **Leaving Care Grant** in line with rising costs associated with setting up their first home.

9. Strengthening the role of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

The City of Cardiff Council has a **Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee** chaired by the Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Children's Services. 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 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.

The specific role in Corporate Parenting requires all members:

- To be aware of, and to find out about, the basic issues and experiences of looked after children in their area.
- To ensure that the interests of the children come first.
- To set this strategic direction of Council services and determine policy and priorities for their local community within the overall objectives set by the Government.
- To ensure that the council at all times acts as a good parent in supporting and promoting opportunities for all children and young people who are looked after.
- Actively taking part in visiting and speaking to children and young people and listening to what they say in order to improve services.
- To be aware of and know what the health and housing needs of looked after children are and what specific support is available for when children leave care.

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

Key Outcomes

In summary the key outcomes this strategy will achieve for the children in our care are:

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.
- Enabling children to make safe and appropriate decisions.

Supporting children in the community more effectively by:

- Close working between Early Intervention and Looked After Children Services 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:

- Working closely with partner agencies to provide an integrated approach
- Ensuring that there are good quality multi-agency care and support plans for looked after children.
- Promoting permanency through adoption and special guardianship.
- Continuing the promotion of long term placements with connected carers.
- Supporting carers to offer secure and stable placements.
- Continue to improve the choice of high quality in-house placements.
- Effectively manage the use of external residential and independent fostering agency placements.
- 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.

- Ensuring that there are good quality Personal Education Plans in place which are reviewed and updated.

Improving the experience of care leavers by:

- Working closely with partner agencies to provide an integrated approach.
- Developing person centred pathway plans.
- Extending the choice and quality of accommodation including the provision of 'When I'm Ready'.
- Providing the opportunities for education, employment and training.
- Strengthening the role of the Personal Advisors.
- Keeping in touch with care leavers and learning from their experiences.

Implementation Plan

Action No.	Action	Responsible	Implementation due date	Progress update	Outcome	RAG Status
1	Implement rapid response service for young people being identified as at risk of becoming looked after due to family breakdown and or family dysfunction.	Operational Manager (OM) Intake & Assessment & Early Intervention, OM Child Protection / Children in Need.	August 2015	A dedicated crisis intervention worker is based within the Intake & Assessment team to respond to all new edge of care assessments.	To ensure that where safe to do so, children are supported at home and family breakdown is prevented.	
Page 56	Commission: Signs of Safety training. Family Group Conferences. Targeted Edge of Care Service.	Assistant Director Children's Services / OM Strategy, Commissioning and Resources.	January – Aug 2016	A business case for Family Group Conferencing and an Edge of Care service (ARC) have been completed for the Investment Review Board. Signs of Safety plan to be implemented June 2016.	To ensure that we have a range of services and approaches to better support children and families and offer a better alternative to care.	

Action No.	Action	Responsible	Implementation due date	Progress update	Outcome	RAG Status	
Page 57	3	Implement an outcomes based performance management framework to achieve better outcomes for looked after children accessing services within the Integrated Family Support Team (IFST), Families First, Youth Service, Housing and Flying Start services.	OM Looked After Children. OM for Achievement and Inclusion	April 2016		To ensure that the councils core preventative services for children all work together to support children living at home where it is safe to do so.	
		Achieve effective control over the number of children entering the looked after system without a plan of permanence by strengthening the role of legal surgery.	OM Child Protection / Children in Need.	November 2015		To ensure there are no delays in care planning for children.	
	5	Continue to develop the pool of in-house foster carers in order to ensure that Cardiff children remain in Cardiff; the Looked After Children Service will play a key role in supporting the Fostering Service in order to	OM Strategy, Commissioning and Resources / OM Looked After Children.	April 2016		To provide looked after children with placements in Cardiff	

Action No.	Action	Responsible	Implementation due date	Progress update	Outcome	RAG Status
	attract new foster carers.					
6 Page 58	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 in order to improve attainment of looked after children.	OM for Achievement and Inclusion Leader / OM Looked After Children.	June 2016		To ensure that educational needs of looked after children remain a priority and address any difficulties when it is known that a child is at risk of not achieving his/her education/attainment potential	

Action No.	Action	Responsible	Implementation due date	Progress update	Outcome	RAG Status
7	Develop and maintain a clear mental / emotional health profile of our looked after children so that we understand their mental / emotional health needs in more detail; this will enable us to effectively engage with Health in order for looked after children to have better access to services for their emotional and mental health needs and reduce inequalities in the future	OM Looked After Children. Head of Operations and Delivery, Community Child Health.	June 2016		To ensure that emotional needs of looked after children are understood and met by adopting a strategic approach to commissioning emotional wellbeing services for looked after children	Amber
8	Increase the number of kinship arrangements (from 21 kinship carers at 30.06.15)	OM Strategy, Commissioning and Resources / Education Achievement Leader.	August 2016		To ensure that where possible, children are placed with members of their family who have been assessed and approved by the local authority	Amber

Action No.	Action	Responsible	Implementation due date	Progress update	Outcome	RAG Status
9	Increase number of discharge applications to reduce number of PWP arrangements from 52 at 30.06.15 to 32 at 31.07.16	OM Looked After Children / OM Child Protection / Children in Need.	August 2016		To ensure that children do not remain subject to unnecessary Orders	AMBER

**CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26 January 2016

Report of Director of Social Services

Member and Director Visits to Front- line Teams

Reason for this Report

1. To enable the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) to receive and consider the reports of visit to front-line Children's Services Teams and services.

Background

2. The CPAC agreed the need to facilitate visits by Committee Members to services and front line teams as an ongoing part of the Committee's Annual Programme of work. In addition to enabling the Council to comply with Recommendation 41 of the Victoria Climbié Report, these visits provide first hand insight into the operation of social work with children in statutory settings, enhance transparency and accountability and promote effective engagement with the workforce.
3. The following report is a simple summary of the visits undertaken since April 2015 and sets out any thematic messages where these are evident.
4. The report does not purport to cover every issue and it may be that individual authors may wish to draw Committee's attention to issues not highlighted in this covering report.
5. Whilst this covering report is not confidential, the original individual reports which are attached at Appendix I for the benefit of Committee members, are confidential and are not for publication.

Summary of Reports

6. During the period April 2015 and the date of this report there were 10 reports of visits, two undertaken by the Director of Social Services and 8 by Committee Members, Councillors Sue Lent, Jonathon Evans, Eleanor Sanders and Sue White. Some of these Member visits were undertaken singly and some in pairs.

7. The teams visited included the Looked After Children Team (under 14); the Looked After Children Teams (14+); the CAP and Intake Teams; the Personal Advisor Service; Crosslands Children's Home; and the Fostering Service. These visits therefore cover a reasonably good cross section of the service overall, from the point of initial assessment when children are first referred, through more complex assessment and court work, through to the Looked After service, and after care; in effect the whole journey of many children in the system.

Thematic Issues

8. In capturing their overall impressions, authors identified positive messages as well as issues that they were concerned about. Over and above the general impact of pressure and external demand factors, no author identified any direct safeguarding issues as the result of a visit.

Positives - all authors were clearly impressed with the commitment of staff teams overall and were complimentary about particular areas of service.

Positive messages included

- Good morale in the Looked After Service
- Significant improvements reported by staff over the last 2 years
- Very positive working relationships with Housing over the last 2 years
- Similar relationships with Adult Services with the comment that "it feels like one council"
- Impact of the increased Leaving Care Grant
- Stability of the team in Intake and Assessment
- Commitment of foster carers
- Good support provided to foster carers
- Greater sense of 'can do' in fostering service
- Very high standard of practice and care at Crosslands
- Good educational psychology support to Crosslands
- Positive view of mobilisation
- Improved recruitment from agency staff and other L.A.s

9. Issues of Concern - these tended to be grouped around particular staff groups, not unlike the positive comments above. The Children in Need Service in particular evidenced some concerns about morale and pressures. Concerning issues included
 - Worries about capacity in the Children in Need Teams
 - Worries about caseloads 'creeping up'
 - Increasing complexity of cases
 - Imbalances in some teams in terms of having higher proportions of newly qualified social workers
 - Increasing 'no recourse to public funds' cases
 - Pressures around domestic violence
 - The need to improve engagement at transitions
 - Views expressed about the removal of the market supplement
 - Concerns about mobile working and implications for team work
 - Delayed allocation of school places in relation to Crosslands and out of

- county returnees
- Reported negative attitudes of some schools and teachers
- Level and accessibility of support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Some issues about practical support for Looked After Children e.g. in obtaining passports and opening bank accounts

Reasons for Recommendations

10. To enable the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to receive the reports of front-line visits.

Legal implications

11. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is recommended to accept the reports of visits to front line teams

TONY YOUNG

Director of Social Services
16 November 2015

Appendix 1 – Member Visit reports.

This Appendix attached to this report is confidential by virtue of paragraph(s) 12 and 21 of Part(s) 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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**CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF
DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

26 January 2016

Forward Plan 2015/16

Reason for this Report

1. For ongoing consideration of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Forward Plan.

Background

2. The Suggested Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Work Programme 2015 – 2016 was considered at the 22 September 2015 and 17 November 2015 Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee meetings.
3. The programme has been updated since the last meeting.
4. Further scheduling adjustments might be necessary as the year progresses or as new matters of interest arise.

Legal Implications

5. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

6. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to consider the suggested work programme for 2015/16, as set out in **Appendix A**, and advise officers how it wishes to progress the various items or topics contained therein.

**Tony Young
Director of Social Services
20 January 2016**

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Suggested Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Work Programme 2015 – 2016

22 Sept 2015 meeting	17 Nov 2015 meeting	26 Jan 2016 meeting	1 March 2016 meeting	12 March 2016 event	24 May 2016 meeting	19 July 2016 Meeting
Workshop	Connect Crosslands Children's Home Model of Care	The Gateway	External speaker – Adoption UK. Title tbc.	Event to engage children and young people	Care leavers	Children Placed out of County 2015/2016
Corporate Parenting Strategy	National and Regional Adoption Service	Annual report from NYAS Advocacy and Independent Visiting Service	Children Placed out of County 2014/2015		Traineeship for looked after children annual report	
		Corporate Parenting Strategy			Feedback from March event and NYAS participation group	
Page 63					Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee annual report	
Education report	Education report	Education report: Virtual School Tracker	Education report		Education report	Education report
Regulation 32 report	Regulation 32 report	Regulation 32 report	Regulation 32 report		Regulation 32 report	Regulation 32 report
Q1 Complaints & Compliments Report	Q2 Complaints & Compliments Report		Q3 Complaints & Compliments Report		2015-16 Complaints & Compliments Report	
	Q2 Performance Update		Q3 Performance Update			Q4 and Annual Outturn Performance Update
Members visits	Members visits	Members visits	Members visits		Members visits	Members visits
Forward Plan / Work programme	Forward Plan / Work programme	Forward Plan / Work programme	Forward Plan / Work programme		Forward Plan / Work programme	Forward Plan / Work programme

Deferred until a future date: Health and Education profile of looked after children, Disabled children.

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