
CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: WORK PROGRAMME

Reason for the Report

1. To fulfil the requirements of the Committee's terms of reference and ensure that Committee Members are actively involved in key areas of corporate parenting.

Background

2. The role of the Committee is outlined in its terms of reference. The terms of reference may be divided into four categories of activity:
 - i. **Category 1: To receive information.**
 - To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for Looked After Children, Children in Need and Care Leavers.
 - To receive all relevant Children's Services inspection and annual reports, including: Children's Homes Quality of Care Reports; Case Practice Reviews, Fostering Annual Quality of Care Reports; Adoption Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report; 4C's Commissioning; Out of Area Annual Report; Annual Report of Brighter Futures (with education); Children's Complaints reports; and Advocacy Annual Reports.
3. A provisional schedule of reports is attached at **Appendix A**. This schedule will be subject to change according to the availability of reports and or emerging needs of the Committee.
 - ii. **Category 2: To actively be involved in corporate parenting.**
 - To actively promote real and sustained improvements in the life chances of Looked After Children, Children in Need, Care Leavers and children and young people in the Criminal Justice system and to work within an annual programme to that end.
 - To seek to ensure that the life chances of Looked After Children, Children in Need and Care Leavers are maximised in terms of health, educational attainment, and access to training and employment, to aid the transition to a secure and productive adulthood.

4. It is suggested that to fulfil this function, members of the Committee take responsibility for themes arising in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The themes are outlined in **Appendix B**. A senior officer will be assigned to support Members in exploring each theme. Members may suggest alternative themes if they prefer.

iii. Category 3: To engage with children and young people and act upon their views.

- To ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable Looked After Children, Children in Need and Care Leavers, to play an integral role in service planning and design, and that their views are regularly sought and acted upon.
- To develop and undertake a programme of consultation, listening and engagement events with Looked After Children and Care Leavers, as well as visits to services providing support and advice to Looked After Children, Children in Need and Care Leavers.

5. It is suggested that members of the Committee engage in a series of visits and events to fulfil this function. It is suggested that the schedule of visits is developed to meet the information needs arising from the work programme. The template attached at **Appendix C** will be completed as visits are scheduled.

iv. To oversee strategic developments, to report and to make recommendations.

- To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy, and ensure its effective implementation through work plans and corporate parenting training programmes.
- To recommend ways in which more integrated services can be developed across all Council directorates, schools and other stakeholders to lead towards better outcomes for Looked After Children, Children in Need and Care Leavers.
- To report to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee as necessary.
- To report to the Cabinet at least twice a year.
- To make recommendations to the Cabinet where responsibility for that function rests with the Cabinet.
- To recommend the appointment of co-opted members to the Committee for approval by Council.
- To submit an annual report on the work of the Committee to full Council.

6. It is suggested that these activities will be the culmination of the Committee's activity and that Committee members should keep these objectives in mind during the year. Theme 9 of **Appendix A** will provide a forum for their discussion.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

9. The recommendations are:

- Agree the provisional schedule of reports.
- Agree the proposed structure for the work programme / themes proposed.
- Agree who is leading on each theme.
- Agree to plan a schedule of visits to meet emerging information needs.

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