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**Presentation by the Psychologist and Principle Social Worker for looked after children**

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**Reason for the Report**

1. A Psychologist and Principle Social Worker will be attending the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee meeting to present the types of therapeutic support for looked after children.
2. The emotional health and mental wellbeing of looked after children was identified by members of the previous Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee during 2016/17 as an important area to focus on in the future.
3. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee's terms of reference require the Committee to develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy, and ensure its effective implementation through work plans. The strategy's implementation plan has an action to develop and maintain a clear mental / emotional health profile of our looked after children so that we understand their needs in more detail and improve access to services to meet those needs.

**Background**

4. A Corporate Parenting Strategy was prepared by managers in Children's Services in consultation with colleagues in Education and the University Health Board during 2015-16. The strategy was formally endorsed by the Council's Cabinet on the 19th of May 2016.
5. The Committee's work programme for 2018/19 is currently under development and is structured around the nine principles set out in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The seventh of those principles is to improve and support the

emotional health and mental wellbeing of looked after children, and forms part of the Specialist Services theme in the work programme.

6. We know that looked after children are more likely to experience emotional, mental health and attachment difficulties than children living with their birth families. These difficulties make looked after children more vulnerable to placement breakdown and achieving poorer outcomes. In recognition of this, in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, we have invested in providing a Clinical Psychologist to work within the Looked After Children Service to support our social workers to better understand the therapeutic needs of our looked after children.
7. The psychologist will be presenting to the Committee at this meeting and will be accompanied by a principle social worker from one of Children's Services Looked After Children teams.
8. The psychology response presented is an example of service integration and partnership working which demonstrates progress towards fulfilling the committee's requirement, as set out in its terms of reference, to recommend ways in which more integrated services can be developed towards better outcomes for Looked After Children.

### **Financial Implications**

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

### **Legal Implications**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION**

11. The recommendation is to note the presentation.

**Irfan Alam**  
**Assistant Director Children's Services**  
**11 January 2018**