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**Bright Spots Programme and the Your Life, Your Care Survey**

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**Reason for the Report**

1. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference require the Committee to ensure that the life chances of Looked After Children, Children in Need and care leavers are maximised. The terms of reference also require the Committee to ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable those children and young people to play an integral role in service planning and design, and that their views are regularly sought and acted upon.
2. This report is to inform the Committee that Children's Social Services have signed up to participate in the Bright Spots programme and the associated 'Your Life, Your Care' survey. The programme aims to identify and improve the well-being and care experiences of looked after children and young people through a participative approach.

**Background**

3. The Bright Spots programme was launched in 2013 as a joint partnership between Coram Voice and the Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies at the University of Bristol. Funded by the Hadley Trust, the programme has worked with local authorities across England and is now being extended into Wales.
4. The programme aims to identify and promote 'bright spots'. Bright spots being the policies and practices that have a positive influence on children and young people's well-being.
5. The programme is unique in combining a children's rights perspective with rigorous data analysis, facilitating local authorities to drive change based on

what is important to children and young people. To do so, the project has developed Bright Spots Well-being Indicators and the Your Life, Your Care survey to systematically examine children's care experiences and well-being. The Indicators are broken down into four domains: Resilience, Recovery, Relationships and Rights. The survey asks children age-appropriate questions about their carer, social worker, friends, where they live, how they feel and the things they get to do. The survey will be completed by children aged 4-18 and relies on identifying trusted adults who can help them complete the survey honestly. Those trusted adults cannot be social workers or foster carers since children and young people might not feel comfortable answering the questions in their presence.

6. Further information is provided in **Appendix A** the Local Authority Guidance Pack, and copies of the surveys are provided as **Appendix B, C and D**.
7. The survey will be undertaken in April / May 2018. The Bright Spots lead officer for Wales attended the Children's Services Management Team meeting in December 2017 to discuss the process, key tasks and how to get the most out of the survey. A representative from the Council's advocacy service provider also attended and will support the implementation of the survey.
8. The Committee will receive an evaluation report containing outcomes from the survey.

### **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 Committee is recommended to note the information.

**Irfan Alam**

**Assistant Director of Children's Services**

**11 January 2018**