
**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019**

Purpose of the Report

1. As part of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee 2018-19 Work Programme, the Committee agreed to receive the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee for 2018/19. This report provides the Members with the opportunity to receive and review the report (copy attached at **Appendix A**).

Background

2. A Corporate Parenting Panel was established in Cardiff during 2007 as a good practice mechanism to support the discharge of the Council's responsibilities. That Panel had no statutory role or formal decision making powers.
3. In 2014 the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee undertook a joint Inquiry to consider:
 - Ways to raise the profile of corporate parenting.
 - The role of the Panel.
 - Lines of accountability.
4. As a result of the recommendations arising from the inquiry, a formal Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee was created to replace the Panel. The Committee met for the first time on the 8th of October 2014. 2017/18 marked the first significant change in membership. That change in

membership was a result of the May 2017 Local Government elections. The current Membership is now in its second year, with a small number of changes in individuals during the period.

Issues

5. Cardiff Council's Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee are collectively responsible for ensuring that all children who are looked after by the Council receive the best possible care and support. That they are appropriately safeguarded and achieve the best possible chances in life.

6. The annual report (copy attached at **Appendix A**) presents the Advisory Committee's main activities during 2018/19. It begins with background information that is helpful in understanding the Committee's function, purpose and the scale of its responsibilities. Following sections summarise activity. These sections include:
 - Director's Summary
 - The Population
 - A record of meetings and attendance.
 - Summary of 2018/19 Business.
 - The Annual Programme and the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
 - Inspection and Annual Reports received.
 - Monitoring Performance.
 - Conclusion and Key areas for Development

7. The Advisory Committee considered the draft annual report at its meeting on 18 November 2019 and approved the report to be laid before Council.

Scope of the Scrutiny

8. The Report will provide the Members with the opportunity to review the advisory Committee's activities during the year and their linkage to the Committee's terms of reference.. Members may wish to evaluate the following aspects of the reports:

- a. The effectiveness of the Advisory Committee in ensuring that the elected members and officers, as corporate parents, are working together to protect and promote the interests of children who are looked after;
- b. The Advisory Committee is ensuring the principles set out in the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child are central to corporate parenting and its work.
- c. That the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee require any amendment.

Way Forward

9. Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills, Councillor Graham Hinchey, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Joint Chairs of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel, Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services and Deborah Driffield, Assistant Director Children's Services will introduce the report and will be available to answer any questions.

Legal Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary

duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members review annual report, attached in **Appendices A**, together with any additional information provided at the meeting and submit any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Director of Social Service prior to the report being laid at Council.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and legal Services

11 December 2019