

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (May 2021- April 2022)**

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**Reasons for the Report**

1. This report seeks approval of the committee's Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period May 2021 - April 2022 as provided at Appendix A.

**Background**

2. The FWP for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee sets out the committee business that will be considered during the period identified in the programme. The proposed programme has been developed to enable the committee to monitor the progress being made to support the children looked after by the authority.
3. Previously, the Committee identified that the agenda for its meetings should be driven by looked after children in Cardiff and that a greater emphasis should be placed on the participation of young people in the work of the Committee.

**Issues**

Plan Structure

4. Previous consultations with young people have identified, aspects of children and young people's support which are working well, those that aren't and the aspirations they have for the future. These have been collated into a number of themes which have been used to structure the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy. It is intended that these themes be used to effectively plan the work of the committee for the forthcoming municipal year. This will ensure that the

agenda and issues considered at the committee will reflect the needs of our young people.

5. The themes that are contained in the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy and which are planned to be reflected in the Committee's FWP are as follows:
  1. Improving emotional well-being and physical health
  2. Having better connections and improved relationships
  3. A comfortable stable home
  4. Education, employment and training
  5. Celebrating our young people
6. Each meeting of the Committee will focus on one of these themes with relevant reports and updates being provided by the service areas and partners.

#### Committee Engagement with Young People

7. The direct involvement in children looked after in formal public committee meetings would be a significant challenge for all participants. Therefore, to engage effectively with our young people, it is proposed that committee members and officers participate in engagement activities outside of formal committee meetings.
8. When facilitating the participation of young people, a set of National Participation Standards have been developed setting out seven key areas to note when planning to participate with young people. These are:
  - **Information** – Information is accessible , good quality and clear
  - **Choice-** Young people have enough time and support if they want to get involved
  - **No discrimination-** provide a range of opportunities and support to meet the needs of children and young people
  - **Respect-** Views and experiences are taken seriously
  - **You get something out of it** – work the best with what young people know and do things to build confidence and skills
  - **Feedback** - Inform young people how ideas and have been used and why
  - **Working better for you** – Ensure views make a difference to the ways plans and decisions are made

7. A number of workshops, meetings and events will be planned with Elected Members which will enable young people to discuss and raise any issues in a more informal setting. The option of attending committee meetings to young people will continue to be made available and with officer support.

#### Frequency of Meetings

8. To support these engagement activities with young people, it is proposed that formal meetings of the Committee be held quarterly. This will allow time for specific projects and consultation activities based around the identified themes to be held with young people. These engagement activities will be facilitated by officers and partners and can be attended by Committee Members. The outcomes of these activities and events will then be presented to the committee at its formal meetings.

#### Performance Monitoring

9. The draft programme includes an opportunity at each committee meeting to consider timely and relevant performance information. This will inform the committee of progress being made in respect of the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy and the delivery of the services to our children looked after and young people. Performance reports will be presented to the committee outlining a range of data from a variety of partners according to theme of the committee meeting. A suite of proposed performance indicators for the committee will be presented at next committee meeting.

#### The FWP and Member Development

10. Committee Members previously requested that the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act awareness be provided for committee members to support their role. The Head of Democratic Services is collating topics for inclusion in the Member Development programme for 2021-22 and is intending to schedule this topic as part of that programme.
11. The proposed FWP identifies a range of topics which committee members may be unfamiliar with. Committee members are requested to identify any learning opportunities which support them in their role and would be beneficial to be added to the Member Development Programme. One such topic is be the Socio-

Economic Duty on Local Authorities which comes into force on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and aims to deliver better outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage. For future consideration of performance monitoring information at committee meetings, members may find it beneficial to undertake some learning to develop their ability to analyse performance information

12. Committee members are requested to identify any other learning opportunities relating to the planned FWP which would assist them in their role.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The report and accompanying appendix provide an overview of the planned work programme for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. As the committee fulfils an advisory role, there are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Any activities referenced within the report or programme are to be funded from within existing available resources.

### **Legal Implications**

14. There are no legal imps arising from the report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. The Committee is recommended to consider the proposed revision of the structure of the FWP including:
  - a. Each meeting being themed to reflect the priorities in the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy.
  - b. proposals for engaging with Children Looked After and young people.
  - c. revision of the frequency of formal committee meetings to support the delivery of informal engagement activities.
  - d. provision and consideration of performance monitoring information at each meeting.
  - e. The identification of member development topics for inclusion in the Member Development Programme 2021-22.

16. approve the committee's Forward Work Programme (FWP) as at Appendix A

**DEBORAH DRIFFIELD**

Director of Childrens' Social Services.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**