

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Reasons for the Report

1. This report is seeking approval of the Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan (as provided at Appendix A.) and the intention to provide the Committee with Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan progress reports Biannually.

Background

2. The Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan builds on the priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. These priorities have been developed based on the views, aspirations and issues impacting Children Looked After and Care Leavers in Cardiff :

Priority 1: Improving emotional well-being and physical health

Priority 2: Better connections, improved relationships

Priority 3: A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after

Priority 4: Educational achievement, employment and training

Priority 5: Celebrating our children and young people

3. The Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan been developed in line with each of the priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Action Plan outlines a series of measurable, aspirational and achievable actions that both internal departments within Cardiff Council and external agencies can achieve in order to improve the lives of care experienced young people and care leavers.

Corporate Parenting Operational Group

4. In order to ensure that the outcomes within the Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan are being achieved a Corporate Parenting Operational Group will be established. This group will oversee the developments and key outcomes outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan. Membership of the group will include senior officers from a variety of agencies and organisations including representation from Children Services, NHS, Education, Housing and other relevant departments and organisations that will have a pivotal role to play in improving the life outcomes of Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
5. As members of the Corporate Parenting Operational Group senior officers will champion the action plan which help to galvanise and encourage members of staff in their relevant department or organisation to report on how their day to day work is contributing to making a positive impact for Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
6. It is proposed that the initial meeting of the Operational Group be held May 2021 with the group continuing to meet each quarter. It will provide an opportunity for them to monitor the activities being undertaken to support the action plan and to ensure that the objectives are being met. The Group will also identify the challenges there have been faced and determine how the group can work in partnership to overcome these challenges. It will also provide an opportunity for the group to discuss service development opportunities that can help improve the life outcomes of Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
7. The Corporate Parenting Operational Group will have a full Terms of Reference outlining officer's responsibilities, frequency of meetings and reporting structure.

Reporting to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

8. It is proposed that a progress report be completed showing how the action plan is being implemented across service areas and partners and how the Corporate Parenting Strategy is making a positive difference to the life outcomes of Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

9. In order for actions to be implemented, measured and aligned with the scheduled meetings of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, it is proposed that a progress report be presented to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Biannually with the first progress report being presented to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee in October 2021.

Financial Implications

10. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report, with the activities referenced within the Action Plan being funded from within existing resources. Should there be additional costs arising from any further actions, these will need to be met from within existing budgets or offset by savings.

Legal Implications

11. There are no legal imps arising from this report

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the formation of the Corporate Parenting Operational Group
- b. Approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan as provided at Appendix A
- c. Approve that the Corporate Parenting Strategy progress report be considered by the Committee biannually with the first report being presented to CPAC in October 2021.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
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11 May 2021