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## **CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2021-2024**

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### **Reason for this Report**

1. The Corporate Parenting Strategy attached at Appendix A is presented to Council for information following approval by Cabinet on 18 March 2021. This three year Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines Cardiff Council's commitments, challenges and the key steps needed to ensure that our children have the best possible outcomes in life.
2. Presentation of this Strategy to Council reflects the requirements of the Notice of Motion approved by Council on 20 January 2020 relating to Corporate Parenting and Children Looked After.

### **Background**

3. The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024 replaces the previous Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-2019 and incorporates throughout the document a greater focus on the voice of Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
4. The role of a corporate parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. Local authorities in Wales have a legal and moral duty to provide such support to the children it looks after. Elected Members have a responsibility to ensure that children looked after by a local authority are able to thrive, are nurtured, supported, educated and prepared for adult life in the way any parent would want for their own children.
5. On 20 January 2020 Council approved a Notice of Motion relating to concerns regarding Corporate Parenting and children looked after. These concerns have been progressed and addressed with reference to Cabinet, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees, Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Council where appropriate.
6. The terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee required the committee 'To ensure the corporate parenting strategy is implemented effectively, reviewed and revised as necessary, to meet the needs of children looked after and care leavers'.
7. This strategy was considered by the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee on 9 March 2021 and following presentation of the strategy to

the Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee was recommended to Cabinet for approval, and approved by Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## **Issues**

8. The Corporate Parenting Strategy will act as the key policy platform outlining how the Council will discharge its corporate parenting responsibilities and prioritise delivery of services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The aim is to improve outcomes, develop services in response to changing need and strengthen participation of children and young people in Corporate Parenting.

## **Financial Implications**

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report. The aims and objectives set out within the strategy will be funded via a combination of base budget Council funding and external funding, where relevant. Should there be any new expenditure commitments arising, these will need to be met from within existing resources or new external grant funding.

## **Legal Implications**

10. The approval of the Corporate Parenting Strategy, as a non-policy framework strategy, is reserved to Cabinet under Section 2 of the Scheme of Delegations (paragraph 4).
11. As noted in the body of the report, this matter is being reported to full Council for information, in accordance with the Notice of Motion approved by Council in January 2020.
12. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13. Council is recommended to note the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021 – 2024, approved by Cabinet in March 2021.

**Gary Jones**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
21 June 2021

## **Appendices:**

Appendix A - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24

## **Background Documents:**

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee report: [‘Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24’, 9 March 2021.](#)

Cabinet report: [‘Children Services Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024’, 18 March 2021](#)

Cabinet Decision Record [CAB/21-22/23, 18 March 2021](#)