

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 October 2021

**Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress Report April 2021-
September 2021**

Reasons for the Report

1. This report provides an update to the Committee on the progress that has been made since the launch of the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy. The progress report outlines the achievements, developments and service changes made across Children Services and with partners against the 5 key priorities of the strategy.

Background

2. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is a three-year multi-agency strategy that sets out what we all need to do as corporate parents to support our Looked After Children and Care Leavers to enable them to thrive and improve outcomes. The Corporate Parenting strategy outlines five key priorities based on the views and experiences of Looked After Children in Cardiff.

The five priorities identified by our young people were:

- **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 strategy has been co-produced from consultation with Children Looked After, Care Leavers, and members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and a wide range of professionals from over 70 different organisations. The Corporate Parenting Strategy was agreed by Corporate

Parenting Advisory Committee in March 2021 and has been agreed by Children and Young people Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council.

4. To show the work that has been undertaken by Children Services and partners against the 5 priorities in the strategy it was agreed that a progress report will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee twice a year. The report is attached at **Appendix A**.

Corporate Parenting Operational Group

5. To help drive forward the work of the Corporate Parenting Strategy a multi-agency operational group has been established. This group includes representation from Children Services, NHS, Housing, Education and Police. The operational group provides a platform to share ideas and increase accountability helping to drive forward Corporate Parenting amongst partners and improve outcomes for Children Looked After and Care Leavers in Cardiff.
6. The role of members of the operational group is to galvanise staff in each directorate and organisation. In August an initial meeting took place, the meeting was very positive with officers and all organisations in attendance outlining a pledge to Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
7. Members of the operational group have also contributed to the Corporate Parenting Strategy action plan setting out how each service area or organisation can contribute to delivering improved outcomes for Children Looked After and Care Leavers. Actions set out in the action plan are measured by a red, amber or green status helping to improve accountability and to help status or projects are kept on track. This action plan has formed the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress report.

Financial implications

8. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, it is important to ensure that any interventions in support of the Corporate Parenting strategy are costed and funding identified

Legal Implications

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

10. The Committee is recommended to note the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress report in **Appendix A** and to make any suggestions or comments.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD

Director of Children's Services

28th September 2021