
CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022- 2023

Reasons for the Report

1. To provide Members with background information to facilitate a pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) Annual Report 2022-2023, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to consideration by Cabinet on the 18 May 2023.

Background

2. The terms of reference of CPAC require it to submit an Annual Report on the work of the Committee to full Council.
3. A copy of the Committee's Annual Report 2022/23 is attached at **Appendix A**. The report outlines the Committee's activities from March 2022 – January 2023.
4. The overarching objective of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, as stated in the terms of reference is to champion the life changes and rights of Children Looked After; Children in Need; Care Leavers and children and young people in the criminal justice system across the Council with Elected Members and partners.
5. The term 'corporate parenting' indicates that the local authority has the same interest in the progress and attainment of looked after children as any reasonable parent has for their own children.

Structure of CPAC Annual Report 2022/23

6. The Annual report for 2022/23 attached at **Appendix A** is set out as follows:

- CPAC Chair's Foreword
- Director's Overview
- Introduction
- Record of meetings and attendance
- Corporate Parenting Training
- Children, young people and Elected Members Engagement session
- Bright Sparks Awards
- Committee updates
- Monitoring Performance
- Conclusion

Issues

7. Some of the issues that may be of interest to Members are as follows:

- During the 2022/23 municipal year, 2 Committee meetings were held. Two scheduled meetings in July 2022 and October 2022 were adapted to a training session to support new members in their role, and as an engagement session with members of the Committee and children and young people.
- Meetings were also attended by a core group of senior managers from Children's Services, Education, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and NYAS Cymru. They attended in the capacity of advisors to respond to questions. Invited guest speakers also presented to the Committee.
- Training, engagement and participation included:
 - For newly elected Members:
 - Definition of Corporate Parenting
 - Legislation

- Cardiff Context
 - Messages from young people
 - Roles and responsibilities of members of the Committee
- Engagement with the Bright Sparks Group (supported by NYAS) in October 2022, where discussions were based around the following themes:
 - Mental Health & Well-being support Services
 - Accommodation
 - Profit from Care
- Committee updates included hearing from the following:
 - Internal staff from directorates particularly children services and education directorates.
 - National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)
 - An update on the Colum Road Assessment Centre (new refurbished accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)
 - Voices from Care Cymru
 - Other external and third sector organisations
 - CASCADE- Good Practice Charter for Parents in and Leaving Care (January 2023)
 - Children, Young people, and Elected Members Engagement session update (January 2023)
 - Virtual School and Virtual Headteacher Update (January 2023)
 - Members Visit Programme proposal (January 2023)

Performance Monitoring

8. Whilst the Annual Report does not detail results of performance in this area, in January 2023, Members received details of the performance dashboard. A link to this is set out here, listed as Appendix A:

[Agenda item - Performance Monitoring : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda-item/performance-monitoring-cardiff-council)

Members may wish to reflect on the performance data provided in the link, and how this links to the Corporate Parenting Strategy, which is set out in the next section.

Corporate Parenting Strategy Update

9. The Annual report states that there will be a review of the current corporate parenting strategy, a copy of which can be found here:

English: [Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024 \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/corporate-parenting-strategy-2021-2024)

Cymraeg: [Strategaeth Rhianta Corfforaethol Amlasiantaeth Caerdydd 2021-2024 \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/strategaeth-rhianta-corfforaethol-amlasiantaeth-caerdydd-2021-2024)

For further reference, a link to a video on the Strategy is here (in YouTube):

[Cardiff Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024 / Strategaeth Rhianta Corfforaethol 2021-2024 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

10. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is a three-year multi agency plan 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.

11. The five priorities identified by 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

Forward Work Programme

12. For reference, the Committee's forward work programme (discussed at CPAC, January 2023) can be found via the link below:

[Agenda item - Forward Work Programme : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda/2023/01/20/forward-work-programme)

The themes to be reflected in the Committees Forward Work Programme are as follows:

- Having a safe and stable home in and after care
- Improving emotional well-being and physical health
- Education, employment, and training

Conclusions of the 2022/23 CPAC Annual Report

13. The following conclusions were stated in the Annual report:

- During 2022/2023 there was a focus to support new members of the Committee in their role following local government elections in May 2022.
- As Covid 19 restrictions eased it also provided opportunities for members to meet children and young people face to face and take part in an annual celebration event.
- Of particular interest to the Committee were:
 - Corporate Parenting Training session
 - Updates on accommodation for our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
 - Engagement session with Children and young people

- Looking to the year ahead the focus will be building on listening events with our care experienced young people to hear their direct experiences and meeting staff and organisations through the members visits programme.

Way Forward

14. At this meeting, the following Members and officers will be in attendance, for the following:

- **Cllr Sarah Merry** (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education; and Chair of CPAC) Statement
- **Deborah Driffield** (Director of Children's Services) Statement and/or presentation
- Q&A with Members on the CPAC Annual Report 2022/23.

Legal Implications

15. 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

16. 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. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. consider the information provided in the report, appendices and presentations or statements;
- II. consider whether they have any observations, comments or recommendations they wish to make; and
- III. consider a way forward with regard to any future scrutiny of the issues raised.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

9 May 2023