

COUNCIL:

29 JUNE 2023

CABINET PROPOSAL

Reason for this Report

1. The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee requires an Annual Report to be submitted to Cabinet and Council on the work of the Committee over the year.
2. A copy of the Committee's Annual Report 2022/23 is attached at Appendix A. This report outlines the Committee's activities from March 2022– January 2023

Background

3. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the Council and for advocating on the collective behalf of all care leavers and children looked after by Cardiff Council, to ensure that they receive the best possible care and support.
4. The role of the Committee is to actively promote and operate collective responsibility between the Council, Social Services, Health, Education and other statutory agencies to achieve good parenting for all children in the care of Cardiff Council and to ensure that they are appropriately safeguarded to achieve the best possible chances in life.

Issues

5. 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.
6. The easing of the COVID 19 restrictions meant that the Committee meetings were able to return to being in person.
7. The report outlines several activities undertaken by the Committee covering the period March 2022 – January 2023. Work of the Committee within this period includes:

- Training and Support for Committee Members on the role and responsibilities of Corporate Parenting.
 - Involvement in the progression of the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy activities.
 - The Bright Sparks Award Ceremony at City Hall to celebrate the achievements of our Children Looked After in December 2023.
 - Engagement session with Children and Young people in October 2022.
 - Member Visiting Programme agreed, with Committee Members visiting a range of settings and organisations linked to our Looked After Children.
 - Updates on accommodation for our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
 - Planning for the New Virtual Head Teacher for our Children Looked After, including for our Children placed Out of Area.
8. It was agreed that the Forward Work programme and Committee meetings held between March 2022 and January 2023 were based around the three of the five priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
9. The Committee received updates from partners, services and teams based on the following themes during these meetings:

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

Young people Participation

10. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) are commissioned by Cardiff Children's Services to deliver a participation service called the Bright Sparks group to children and young people aged 11-25 needing care and support. The principal objective is to ensure children and young people are afforded a voice, becoming active participants in shaping policy and service provision within the council and within a wider external context.
11. At each Committee meeting the Participation Officer from NYAS Cymru attends to inform the Committee of work undertaken by members of the Bright Sparks group in line with the Priorities in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The updates also provide feedback from young people in order to strengthen the voice of young people and inform the Committee of the challenges, achievements and views of care experienced young people in Cardiff.
12. In October 2022, Members attended an Engagement Event planned and facilitated by Care Experienced Young People. The following themes were raised by Children and young people and were presented to the Committee:

- i. Improvement to emotional health and well being services
- ii. Accommodation
- iii. Profit from Care

13. The session also provided an opportunity for young people and the chair to have an open discussion about their experiences and provide feedback on the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Monitoring Performance

14. A revised and updated Key Performance Data Dashboard has been developed, linking in information from Children's Services, Health and Education to monitor the progress of our Children Looked After. Data is now reported biannually to the Committee with a comparison being made from previous data to help identify progress, trends, and challenges.
15. A Case Study Model has been developed to share examples of the experiences for some of our Children Looked After in a range of settings and ages. Committee members were able to consider examples, which enabled them to plan and make informed enquiries. This has informed the forward work programme as well as future work of the committee.

Local Member consultation

16. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee considered and approved the Annual report on the 27th March 2023.
17. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee considered and approved the Annual report on 15th May 2023.

Reason for Recommendation

18. To enable the Cabinet to receive an update on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Financial Implications

19. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising, the annual report does identify an action plan which needs to ensure that any cost impacts are identified prior to implementation and are contained within existing budgetary allocations and / or external funding sources.

Legal Implications

20. There are no legal implications from this report.

HR Implications

21. There are no HR implications from this report.

Property Implications

22. There are no specific property implications arising from the Corporate Parent Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021-2022. Where there are any property transactions or valuations required to deliver any proposals, they should be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

CABINET PROPOSAL

Council is recommend that Council note the content of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022-2023.

THE CABINET
22 JUNE 2023

The following appendix is attached to this report:

Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report