

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

2 OCTOBER 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

CARDIFF COMMITMENT UPDATE

Reasons for the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update in relation to the Cardiff Commitment Project.

Background

2. Cardiff Commitment is a programme to support the Capital Ambition, that all learners progress into education, employment or training post-16.
3. Supporting the progression of young people is a key priority for the Education Directorate and Cardiff Commitment are building strong relationships between Cardiff's schools, employers, and higher and further education partners to support young people to access good jobs and careers.
4. Over 300 employers in Cardiff are working with Cardiff Commitment to offer young people employment and training opportunities, work experience and curriculum enrichment activities.
5. It links closely with the principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024
 - To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
 - To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
 - To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Overview

6. The Cardiff Commitment is a citywide alliance of employers from growth sectors of the economy, Higher Education, Further Education, 3rd Sector and Schools who seek to harness the economic, cultural and social capital of Cardiff for the benefit of children and young people.
7. This collaboration of partners helps to secure opportunities for our children and young people, which will raise ambitions and develop the skills needed for the world of work. This support will assist pupils to fulfil their potential and contribute to the economic growth of our city.
8. There are 6 priorities within the Cardiff Commitment Forward Work Plan:
 - 8.1 Priority Partner Support: providing enhanced training based on needs, encouraging shared capacity between organisations and working together to impart the knowledge, skills and experiences required to inspire our children and young people towards a better future.
 - 8.2 Priority Experience of Work: Embedding Business Forums, Careers and Work-Related Experiences within schools that reflect employers across the growth sectors within the region. This will broaden understanding of labour market intelligence in areas which are poorly understood and of strategic importance to connect and support children and young people to transition into the jobs of the future.
 - 8.3 Priority Learning Pathways: Empowering young people to make informed decisions regarding their next steps by providing a local, visible and transparent post 16 provision and opportunity offer. This will be provided alongside access to trustworthy regional labour market intelligence, which will support young people to transition into education, employment and training that are aligned to their aspirations.
 - 8.4 Priority Social Value: Supporting Cardiff Council Contract Managers and suppliers to develop and deliver social value opportunities that are needed, that support children and young people to be ambitious and provide the skills needed for positive transitions into education, employment, and training.
 - 8.5 Priority Children And Young People Who Need It Most: Targeted programmes informed by labour market intelligence which look to increase the possibility and probability of young people with a variety of barriers and challenges of moving into paid employment, training or education through an enhanced careers and work-related experiences offer.

- 8.6 Priority Cardiff Curriculum: Supporting schools to deliver the Curriculum for Wales through the Cardiff Curriculum team, utilising School Business Forums and the Cardiff Commitment network to develop knowledge, skills and experiences which provide scaffolding and opportunities for co-constructing curriculum.

Targeted Support for Children Looked After

9. A Children Looked After Working Group is being developed to support pupils across our schools with meaningful career and work-related experiences. The group will help to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
10. The group will be chaired by our Children Looked After Virtual Head Teacher and Head Teacher at Cardiff West Community High School. They will look at how meaningful opportunities can be developed within the Cardiff Commitment network to support our Children Looked After to develop their aspirations and support them to realise their ambitions for the future.
11. The views of Children Looked After will be central to this work and they will be consulted for their views as to the support they need to raise their aspirations and realise their ambitions. Cardiff Commitment will listen to their ideas and needs and respond with a Call to Action across their partner network.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

14. To note the Cardiff Commitment Update Report and make any observations or comments and, if appropriate agree how the implementation of this project is reported to this committee going forward.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
14 September 2023

Appendix A: Presentation