

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – MAY 2023 – APRIL 2024

Reasons for the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the Committee's Forward Work Programme as provided at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. The Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee sets out the committee business that will be considered during the period identified in the programme. The proposed programme has been developed to enable the committee to monitor the progress being made to support the children looked after by the authority.
3. Previously, the Committee identified that the agenda for its meetings should be driven by looked after children in Cardiff and that a greater emphasis should be placed on the participation of young people in the work of the Committee.

Issues

4. Following an engagement session with children and young people looked after in October 2022, several themes were identified and are mirrored in the FWP to effectively plan the work of the committee for the municipal year. This will ensure that the agenda and issues considered at the committee will reflect the needs of young people.
5. The themes to be reflected are as follows:
 1. Improving emotional well-being and physical health
 2. Having a safe and stable home in and after care
 3. Education, employment, and training
 4. Better connections, improved relationships
6. Each meeting of the Committee will focus on one of these themes with relevant reports and updates being provided by the service areas and partners.

7. Other items will be added to the Committee Forward Work Programme to ensure that it meets the requirements under its terms of reference .

Committee Engagement with Young People

8. Several workshops, meetings and events will be planned with Elected Members in a range of settings. This will enable young people to discuss and raise any issues in a more informal setting. The option of attending committee meetings to young people will continue to be made available and with officer support. Continuous engagement of children and young people will help to inform the future work of the Committee.
9. Participation Partnership working will remain a priority for the upcoming year for the service area. Regular updates will be provided to the Committee on the key progress in this area which will include work undertaken on the development of a Participation Strategy.

Performance Monitoring

10. The programme includes an opportunity at each committee meeting to consider timely and relevant performance information. This will include a Bi Annual Performance Dashboard, looking at a range of data from statutory services. In line with the Committees Terms of Reference an Education Performance of Children Looked After Information report will be submitted annually. This performance information will inform the committee of progress being made in respect of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the delivery of the services to our children looked after and young people.

Member Development

11. The FWP identifies a range of topics which committee members may be unfamiliar with. Committee members are requested to identify any learning opportunities which will support them in their role and would be beneficial to be added to the Member Development Programme.

Financial Implications

12. The report and accompanying appendix provide an overview of the planned work programme for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. As the committee fulfils an advisory role, there are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Any activities referenced within the report or programme are to be funded from within existing available resources.

Legal Implications

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. To consider and approve the Forward Work Plan (**Appendix A**)
15. To identify any future member development topics for inclusion in the Member Development Programme.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
20 September 2023

Appendix A – Forward Work Programme