

## **Corporate Parenting Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 20 March 2018

**Report Title:** Corporate Parenting Update

**Portfolio Holder:** Jos Saunders Portfolio Holder for children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Kerry Birtles, Head of Cared for Children & Care Leavers

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Corporate Parenting Committee on national and local developments in relation to cared for children and young people and care leavers.

### **2. Recommendation/s**

- 2.1. Corporate Parenting Committee is asked to:

- 2.1.1. Note the contents of the report.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation/s**

- 3.1. The Corporate Parenting Committee is as advisory group to the Cabinet and, as such, needs to be aware of any national or local issues that are likely to impact on cared for children and care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Committee need to be able to scrutinise and challenge performance to improve outcomes for cared for children and young people.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. None; this is an update report.

### **5. Background**

#### **National Developments**

DfE consultation: Children and Social Work Act - Corporate parenting, local offer, and support to age 25

- 1.1. Sections 1 to 7 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (the Act) made changes to the legislative framework for looked after and previously looked after children, and care leavers. Following public consultation, the DfE has published guidance to assist LAs and other agencies in implementing these elements of the Act.

- 1.2. Sections 1 to 3 of the Act introduced: corporate parenting principles to which LAs must have regard when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers; a requirement to consult on and publish a local offer for care leavers; and extended eligibility for support from a personal adviser to all care leavers up to the age of 25. These new duties will come in to force from April 2018.
- 1.3. The DfE has published the following statutory guidance to help LAs, other agencies and partners, implement these changes:
- Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers - To help LAs implement the corporate parenting principles
  - Local Offer for care leavers guidance - To guide LAs on consulting on, and publishing in one place, the statutory entitlements and other discretionary support available to care leavers
  - Extending Personal Adviser support to all care leavers to age 25 - To help LAs implement the extended duty for Personal Adviser support to be made available to all care leavers up to age 25, if they want such support.
- 1.4. In relation to the above, the DfE have also published:
- The Government's response to the consultation on the earlier drafts of the above statutory guidance
  - The New Burdens assessment on the extension of the Personal Adviser duty.
- 1.5. Sections 4 to 7 of the Act expand the role of Virtual School Heads (VSH) and designated teachers to include certain previously looked after children (those who left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or were adopted from state care outside England and Wales). The new duties for VSH and designated teachers will come in to force from September 2018. The DfE has published the following statutory guidance aimed at local authorities, schools and school governing bodies to help them implement these changes:
- Revised statutory guidance on Promoting Education of Looked after Children
  - Revised statutory guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher for looked-after and previously looked after children
  - The Government response to consultation on draft statutory guidance on Promoting Education of Looked after Children and Roles and Responsibilities the Designated Teacher.

### **Local Developments**

Feedback from Mark Riddell's Visit, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers

- 1.6. In January 2018 we invited Mark Riddell, the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, into Cheshire East to feedback on our arrangements to support care leavers.
- 1.7. Feedback was provided by Mark on day two of the visit and identified that the operational model provided by the care leavers team was good and that the personal advisors were committed to improving outcomes for care leavers however the 'corporate test' had not been met in Cheshire East. Mark Riddell recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board reconsider the ways in which it is able to directly influence the services that are delivered to care leavers and that corporate parenting needs to become embedded throughout the organisation.
- 1.8. Officers have listened to the feedback provided and have begun to consider ways in which the local offer to care leavers can be strengthened and how Corporate Parenting Board acts as a platform to facilitate change within the organisation.

#### Inspection of Local Children's Services (ILACs) Inspection Briefing

- 1.9. The ILACS inspection applies a universal inspection framework that came into force in January 2018. The focus of the inspection is on the help, care and protection of children and young people and applies a whole systems approach rather than an inspection regime. The new approach will not just focus on the information identified during the visits but also by information provided prior to the inspection through the Annual Self Evaluation and Annual Conversation.
- 1.10. Cheshire East can expect either a focused visit or a full inspection and as we are a requiring improvement authority this will consist of a short period of notice that Ofsted will be inspecting followed by two weeks of direct inspection activity. Cheshire East's visit from Mark Riddell has been helpful in understanding how we can continue to strive to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people and also to prepare for an inspection.

#### Feedback from Children and Young People

- 1.11. The Head of Service for Cared for Children and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families meet regularly with care for children and young people and care leavers. In recent meetings, these young people have fed back the following:
  - Contact with their family and friends is a worry for them and they would like to be asked more about their views about how they can maintain relationships with their family and friends
  - Health services need to be more flexible in delivery and information about sexual health and healthy relationships should be more readily available

- Celebration of their individual achievements must be celebrated. My Voice have spoken about how well received the Star Awards was in November 2017
- My Voice want the opportunity to attend local and national events to share their experience and support in positive changes to the ways services are delivered.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

The national and local developments described in this report are wide ranging and will in many particulars have legal implications. Legal advice will be sought, as appropriate, upon all relevant emerging issues.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

### **6.3. Equality Implications**

There are no equality implications as a result of this paper.

### **6.4. Human Resources Implications**

There are no direct financial implications of this report

### **6.5. Risk Management Implications**

Cared for children and care leavers are a vulnerable group that are at risk of a number of factors – poor education and training, health, safeguarding and transition into adulthood.

### **6.6. Rural Communities Implications**

None.

### **6.7. Implications for Children & Young People**

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

### **6.8. Public Health Implications**

6.8.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. Although the number of Cheshire East cared for children and young people is relatively small, they are a vulnerable cohort, who live across Cheshire East and in other local authority areas.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

None

## **9. Access to Information**

9.1. Scaling Questionnaire

## **10. Contact Information**

10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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## 11. Version Control

Date	Version	Author	Meeting report presented to	Consultees		Summary of amendments made
				Name of officers consulted	Date consulted	
07.03.2018	1	Kerry Birtles	Nigel Moorehouse Cllr Jos Saunders – portfolio holder			