

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	13 February 2023
Report Title:	Corporate Parenting Committee Name Change
Report of:	Deborah Woodcock – Executive Director Children’s Services
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1.** The purpose of this report is to recommend a name change for the Corporate Parenting Committee. This change of name reflects the wishes of cared for children and care leavers who have asked for professionals to simplify the language that is used when working with them or making decisions about them.
- 1.2.** By listening to the wishes and feelings of our care leavers we will ensure that Cheshire East is ‘a great place to be young’. It is also a great opportunity for Cheshire East Council to be ‘an open and enabling organisation’ and for decision makers to demonstrate their commitment to listen, learn and respond to our young people by having a ‘two-way conversation’ as stated in the council’s Corporate Plan.
- 1.3.** By supporting cared for children and care leavers to share their views freely and be taken seriously, Cheshire East Council and partners uphold their responsibility of being duty bearers of children’s rights.
- 1.4.** This report was considered by the Corporate Parenting Committee on 10 January 2023 and the committee agreed the recommendation that the name should be changed to the Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee. This report requests that the name change is endorsed by the Children and Families Committee as the parent committee.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 From October to November 2022 the participation team worked with cared for children and care leavers to explore the option to change the name of Corporate Parenting Committee. This report summarises the feedback and recommendations from cared for children and care leavers. Feedback was captured during an activity day and at the My VOICE group. My VOICE is a group for children and young people with care experience. By giving our cared for children and care leavers the opportunity to shape the Corporate Parenting Committee we uphold the corporate parenting principles to encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. To endorse the recommendation from the Corporate Parenting Committee that the name of the Corporate Parenting Committee is changed to the **Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee** in response to feedback from care experienced children and young people.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. Children and young people told us that professionals use a lot of jargon, and there is a lot of terminology that we use that they don't understand. Children and young people said they don't understand the term 'Corporate Parenting' and that it sounds clinical. After discussions with cared for children and care leavers it was decided to change the name of the Corporate Parenting Strategy to the 'Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy'. Now that the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy has changed its name, we also ask that the name of the Corporate Parenting Committee adapts the same language for continuity and so it is clear to children and young people what the committee covers.
- 4.2. Simplifying the language we use when communicating with cared for children and care leavers will ensure that services and support are open, inclusive and accessible.

5. Other Options Considered

5.1.

Option	Impact	Risk
Don't change the name of the Corporate Parenting Committee	Inconsistent language with the strategy We don't deliver what we agreed in the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy	Cared for children, young people and care leavers don't feel listened to and aren't able to recognise that the committee is focused on improving outcomes for them

		without someone explaining this to them.
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6. Background

- 6.1. Ref 1.4 in the [Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy](#) states: “Continue to work with cared for children and care leavers to change the language we use” and ref 1.9 states: “We will change the name of our Corporate Parenting Committee to reflect children and young people’s wishes regarding the language we use”. By changing the name of the committee, we will do what we said we would do to support and listen to our cared for children and care leavers. This also links to Pledge 6 of the strategy which states: “We will work TOGETHER with children and young people”.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1. In October and November 2022 around 15 cared for children and care leavers worked with the participation team to discuss different options for changing the name of Corporate Parenting Committee.
- 7.2. **Legal**
- 7.2.1. No implications.
- 7.3. **Finance**
- 7.3.1. No implications.
- 7.4. **Children and Young People/Cared for Children**
- 7.4.1. Changing the name of the committee will reflect that we listen to children and young people.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	
Background Papers:	Cared for Children and Care Leaver Strategy 2022-26