

Cheshire East Council

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting: 6th September 2016

Report of: Gill Betton, Head of Children's Development & Partnerships

Subject/Title: Corporate Parenting Committee Proposed Work Programme

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Liz Durham

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report provides a proposed outline work programme/forward plan for the Corporate Parenting Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Corporate Parenting Committee is asked to:

- 2.1.1 Agree the areas of focus for the forthcoming meetings; and
- 2.1.2 Note and, if appropriate, prioritise other reports that will be presented to the Committee over the coming year.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. Having focus areas for each Committee meeting will allow Members to have a 'deeper dive' on areas that have the most impact on outcomes for cared for children and care leavers.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. The Committee could determine an alternative work programme.

5. Background

- 5.1. The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Committee in its role as an advisory committee to the Cabinet is to ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers from 0-25 years of age and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities. This means that the Committee needs to have a broad overview of the effectiveness of current services and a deeper understanding of those areas that have most impact on outcomes for cared for children and care leavers.

- 5.2. Following a meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair of the new Committee, it is proposed that there will be two main parts to each Committee meeting; one a focussed and more detailed look at one key area; the other a round up of key national and local developments, performance and the effectiveness of existing services in relation to cared for children and care leavers, including proposed actions in relation to these.

Proposed Focus Areas

- 5.3. At its first meeting in June 2016 the Committee considered the document '*10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children*'. This document sets out the particular areas of scrutiny for corporate parents to have the biggest impact on outcomes for cared for children and care leavers. Based on these areas, the following focus areas are proposed for future meetings of the Committee:

September 2016 - Education, employment and training of children and young people in care and care leavers

November 2016 - Health and wellbeing of children and young people in care and care leavers

January 2017 - Placement sufficiency and quality including residential care, out of county placements, Reg 44 visits, advocacy and independent visitors

March 2017 - Provision and outcomes for care leavers

May 2017 - Workforce and infrastructure to support cared for children and care leavers

Performance Scorecard

- 5.4. It is proposed to present quarterly performance information to the Committee on a broad range of measures. This would be available for Committee scrutiny at the following meetings:

- September 2016
- January 2017
- May 2017

National and Local Information

- 5.5. The Committee will want to look at the experiences of cared for children and care leavers and the effectiveness of all relevant services including Fostering and Adoption, Residential Services, Placements, Support Services, Permanency and Throughcare. Examples of some report areas include:

- Update on participation (Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum)
- Refresh of Corporate Parenting Strategy

- Care Leavers Strategy
- Adoption Panel Annual Report
- Fostering Panel Annual Report
- Reg 44 report
- Virtual School Annual Report
- IRO Annual Report
- Advocacy and Independent Visitor services
- Results of surveys (Foster Carer, staff etc)
- Sufficiency Statement
- Commissioned services
- Safeguarding, including missing from home and care and at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE), youth offending

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

6.1. Not applicable.

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Not applicable.

8. Risk Management

8.1. Not applicable.

9. Background Papers

9.1. *10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children.*
http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=dd2b4d45-a687-4c82-9737-fd31fb8a1c7c&groupId=10180

10. Contact Information

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