

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting: 13 November 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

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

5.1. This update report has been amended to align with the priorities of the new corporate Parenting Strategy.

6. Being a Good Corporate Parent

Ofsted Focussed Visit – October 2018

6.1. Cheshire East received an Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) 'focused visit' of our children's social care services on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st October. The focus for this visit was on the experiences

of children cared for by Cheshire East, especially those children who are living at home on care orders and children in residential provision. Inspectors also looked at planning for permanence. Feedback on the findings of the focussed visit will be presented to the November Committee.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-20 and Youth Proofed Pledges

- 6.2. The final Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-20 is on the agenda for November Committee for Member endorsement. Alongside the strategy, young people have 'youth proofed' the pledges and these can be found at Appendix 1.
- 6.3. It is proposed that the full Council will sign up to the corporate parenting pledges on 13th December.

Member Training

- 6.4. Two corporate parenting member training events took place 12th October. A total of 35 members attended the training. Frontline visits for those members who have attended the training will now be set up.

Head of Service for Cared for Children and Care Leavers

- 6.5. Kerry Birtles, the Head of Cared for Children and Care Leavers, will be on maternity leave from the end of November 2018. Keith Martin, the current Service Manager for Children with Disabilities, will carry out the Head of Service role on a temporary basis.

7. Education, Employment and Employment Outcomes

Virtual Headteacher Annual Report 2018

- 7.1. The Virtual Headteacher for cared for children annual report 2018 is on the agenda. Although the report is final, at this stage data is unvalidated and any minor changes will be made in March 2019 when final data is available.

8. Achieving Permanence and Keeping Children Safe

Ignition Panel

- 8.1. Our Ignition Panel for care leavers has been shortlisted for an LGC Award in the category of public/private partnerships. Judging will be in January 2019, followed by an award ceremony in March 2019.

9. Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

Decision-Making and Mental Capacity: NICE Guideline

- 9.1. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a guideline on decision-making in people 16 years and over who may lack capacity now or in the future. The guideline aims to help health and social

care practitioners support people to make their own decisions where they have the capacity to do so. It also helps practitioners to keep people who lack capacity at the centre of the decision-making process.

Mental Health Assessments for Cared for Children Pilot

- 9.2. The DfE has commissioned the Anna Freud Centre to pilot improved approaches to the mental health assessments cared for children receive when they enter care. The project is in its pilot area recruitment phase, with projects start from June 2019. Cheshire East is keen to learn from the pilot areas.

10. Preparing for Adulthood

Visit from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers

- 10.1. Mark Riddell, the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers visited Cheshire East on 15th October. This follows a formal visit in January 2018. The letter outlining Mark Riddell's findings are included on the agenda.

Care Leaver Covenant

- 10.2. Businesses have pledged to support care leavers through a landmark government scheme launched to raise their career aspirations and improve their life skills. More than 50 businesses, charities and every government department in England have signed up to the Care Leaver Covenant, which commits to provide work-based opportunities to young people leaving the care system.
- 10.3. The work that Cheshire East is doing with Pure Insights around providing networking, mentoring, parental support, mental-health support, and a range of other support services for care leavers is cited in the covenant, which can be found on the following link: <https://mycovenant.org.uk/>

Local Offer for Care Leavers

- 10.4. The local offer for care leavers is now live and can be viewed at:
<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities/care/local-offer-for-care-leavers.aspx>

11. Implications of the Recommendations

11.1. Legal Implications

Legal advice will be sought, as appropriate, upon all relevant emerging issues.

11.2. Finance Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

11.3. Equality Implications

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

11.4. Human Resources Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

11.5. 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.

11.6. Rural Communities Implications

None.

11.7. Implications for Children & Young People

11.7.1. The contents of this report have implications for cared for children and care leavers, who are some of Cheshire East's most vulnerable children.

11.8. Public Health Implications

11.8.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

12. Ward Members Affected

12.1. 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.

13. Consultation & Engagement

13.1. None.

14. Access to Information

14.1. None.

15. Contact Information

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

Name: Kerry Birtles
Job Title: Head of Cared for Children & Care Leavers
Email: kerry.birtles@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Youth Proofed Pledges

Pledge 1 - Being a Good Corporate Parent

Staff and elected members will understand their roles and responsibilities and be ambitious corporate parents, who advocate and champion the needs of cared for children and care leavers in everything they do

"Determined and ready to help in any kind of way"

"Positive"

We will know ourselves and the needs of our children and young people well and design and deliver services that meet their needs

"Main goal to achieve"

"We want to give you the best experience possible"

Decisions about children and young peoples' lives, and the services that support them will be made WITH them and for them. We will always value their views

"I want to support you in the best way that I can"

"Everything we do needs to have involved me"

"We will make decisions together"

Pledge 2 - Improved Education, Employment and Training

We will have high aspirations for every child and young person and we will help them to achieve their ambitions, using opportunities in the 'family business' and our contacts so that they can be happy and successful in education, training and employment

Family Business – "You can try work experience in any one of our services"

Aspirations – "We will try our best to help you achieve, we want you to achieve"

Every child and young person will have an education plan that is targeted to enable them to reach their full potential

"You will make sure I have every chance to achieve my dreams"

We will strive to ensure that every child and young person will have access to consistent, high quality, well matched, full time opportunities

"You will make sure that you will discuss any possible changes to my education with me. My school will be the right school for me

Pledge 3 - Achieving Permanence and Staying Safe

We will strive to ensure that every child and young person will have the opportunity to live in a good, safe home locally, either with their family or in another permanent home. All decisions will be made and reviewed with them without delay

"You will get me a home that is good, safe, local. My home will be without disruptions and problems. The quicker you make the decision the happier I will be"

We will respect those people who are important to our children and young people and make sure that these safe relationships are sustained

"You will always ask me and listen when I tell you who is important. Pets and friends are really important to us. You will explain to me how I can choose to stay in touch"

We will keep children and young people safe

"You will keep us happy and well looked after"

Pledge 4 - Improve Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

We are committed to understanding the health needs of our children and young people as early as possible and to ensure they are given the highest priority in every service.

"You will be attentive to how I am feeling in my physical health and mental health"

"When I need help you help me as quickly as possible!"

We will equip our children and young people to have high aspirations for their own health

"You will give us all the information you have so we can make good choices about our health"

Pledge 5 - Preparing for Adulthood

We will support young people early with the skills needed to prepare for their future to access a range of good quality services

"You will help us to learn how to be able to care for ourselves with the skills and live the lives we want as adults"

We will be a consistent guide for our young people. We will celebrate their successes and support them when things don't go well

"When we fall you will catch us and help us get back on track"

We will respect our care leavers as young adults and adapt our relationships to their needs

"You will allow us to make our own decisions about our lives, giving us more control and be truly 'young adults'"