

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting: 22 January 2019

Report Title: Corporate Parenting Update

Portfolio Holder: Jos Saunders Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Keith Martin, 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 an 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 aligns with the priorities of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

6. Being a Good Corporate Parent

Councillors make Commitment to Corporate Parenting

- 6.1. Councillors from all political parties made a commitment to be 'good corporate parents' and improve the lives of cared for children and care leavers at a

meeting of full council on 13th December 2018. Councillors signed up to the five pledges of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Participation of Cared for Children and Care Leavers

- 6.2. All future meetings of the Being a Good Corporate Parent Group will include a care leaver to represent the voice of cared for children and care leavers. They will bring feedback from the children and young people to the meeting to ensure that their voice is heard; this will be facilitated by the Participation Team.

Investing in Children Award

- 6.3. The Investing in Children Membership Award gives organisations national recognition for the good practice and active inclusion of children and young people in dialogue resulting in change. A number of services within Cheshire East have achieved this award and in 2019 the Cared for Children Service will be applying. It is expected that this achievement will recognise and celebrate examples of imaginative and inclusive practice.

Star Awards Celebration – Debrief and Next Steps

- 6.4. Following the successful Star Awards Celebration in November 2018, we have worked with young people to look at what worked well and what could be improved for 2019. This feedback is set out at Appendix 1

7. Education, Employment and Employment Outcomes

Cheshire East Apprenticeship Opportunities

- 7.1. From January 2019 a care Leaver will be joining the Participation Team as a 9 hour per week Youth Support Worker. There are also there are 2 ring-fenced apprenticeships available in the Youth Support Service for Care Leavers.

8. Achieving Permanence and Keeping Children Safe

Sufficiency Statement for Cared for Children, 2018-20

- 8.1. The Sufficiency Statement for Cared for Children, 2018-20, along with a review of the plan, is on the agenda for consideration by the January Committee. This includes an update on the ongoing procurement process for development of residential homes and care hub provisions within Cheshire East.

Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

- 8.2. The Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board for 2017-18 is on the January agenda for consideration by Committee.

Permanency Forum

- 8.3. The Permanency Forum is a key forum for achieving the pledge around permanence in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Forum takes place every week, led by Senior Officers. They meet with frontline practitioners and team managers to talk about all of our children who are identified as being in the early planning for permanence or where a plan of permanence has been agreed but not yet achieved. This model, recognised as positive practice by Ofsted, is becoming more embedded within services and is supporting productive permanency planning, review of care plans and providing scrutiny to reduce drift.

Specialist Support

- 8.4. Plans are currently underway to recruit a Social Worker to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and homeless 16/17 year olds within the Cared for Service. It is expected that this specialist support will give them the best opportunities within Cheshire East.

The National Protocol on Reducing Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- 8.5. This National Protocol, published in November 2018, provides a framework to help local areas reduce criminalisation of cared for children and care leavers. It aims to inform social care and criminal justice agencies' practice to ensure that these children, regardless of their placement type, are kept out of the criminal justice system where possible. The protocol is based on a multi-agency approach, underpinned by listening to and learning from young people and use of restorative practice.

9. Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

- 9.1. An annual report on the health of cared for children and young people in 2017-18 will be presented to the January Committee.

10. Preparing for Adulthood

The Annual Report from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers

- 10.1. The Annual Report from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, Mark Riddell, was published in December 2018. The Advisor was appointed to work with all local authorities to help them implement the new care leaver provisions introduced through the Children & Social Work Act; and to offer consultancy support to any local authority that wanted to benefit from his expert advice. During his first year in post, Mark has visited around 40 local authorities and identified a number of examples of how local authorities

are implementing the new duties effectively, as well as innovative practice more generally – which have been referenced in his report under the 5 outcomes set out in the cross-Government care leaver strategy, ‘Keep on Caring’. Mark has visited Cheshire East twice and the report includes a good practice example from the borough.

11. General

Corporate Parenting Forward Plan

- 11.1. The forward plan for Corporate Parenting Committee has been amended to align with the five pledges of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The amended plan is attached at Appendix 2.

12. Implications of the Recommendations

12.1. Legal Implications

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

12.2. Finance Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

12.3. Equality Implications

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

12.4. Human Resources Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

12.5. 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.

12.6. Rural Communities Implications

None.

12.7. Implications for Children & Young People

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

12.8. Public Health Implications

12.8.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

13. Ward Members Affected

13.1. 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.

14. Consultation & Engagement

14.1. None.

15. Access to Information

15.1. None.

16. Contact Information

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

Name: Keith Martin
Job Title: Head of Cared for Children & Care Leavers
Email: Keith.martin@cheshireeast.gov.uk



Cheshire East Corporate Parenting STAR Celebrations Debrief

The group discussed any issues that had occurred from this year's planning and event so that the day in November 2019 will be run very smoothly.

The group agreed that planning this year started much too late as it was June. Rebekka has put bi-monthly meetings in the calendar from January to May, and then June to November will be monthly meetings.

What went well

- Superhero theme
- Superhero actors
- All activities – loved the drumming and the photo booth

What could be better

- Not every child had a certificate. 20 blanks were printed – but we ran out of these too. Next year we need to double check the nominations received against the total number of cared for/care leavers?
- Certificates were not signed – assuming that the Heads of Service would do this when they were presented. On the day – there was no time to do this so most of the certificates went unsigned. Next year – suggest we pre print or they are 'hand signed' by the Heads of Service
- Lesley took some feedback from one of our foster carers who wasn't expecting to see/meet birth parents at the event – not sure how this happened
- More attention needed for the 'crossover' time between the first session and the second session. Many of the young people/carers arrived to lots of dirty cups/plates. One of the carers told Lesley that the young people looked forward to this event more than Xmas and for them to arrive when the place looked a bit chaotic didn't show us at our best
- Possibly rethink the professional photographer for the next event. Mandy & Kelly did a brilliant job – but the printer was a bit slow and the final product wasn't as good a quality
- More 'branding' to dress the venue – so more banners/balloons, particularly in the celebration room.

General Feedback from Young People

Angela has spoken to the young people and feedback is as follows:

- Activities that they really liked were - Slime station, hair braids, face painting, glitter tattoos and photo booth.
- The young people loved the food. However, next year they would like to have the chocolate fountain again.
- Young people would like next year's theme to be Pirates and Princesses.
- Young people would like the red carpet back at next year's event.
- The young people liked the hotel venue itself; however, they have said that is too far away and not central to the county at all.
- The superheroes were amazing, so next year we would like characters to fit the theme.

Action: Confirm with the young people that they would like a Pirates and Princesses theme at next year's event

Venue

As the young people have mentioned that the venue is not central enough Cheshire East, the group discussed using a different venue next year. Ideas put forward included Cranage Hall, Congleton Town Hall and the Chimney House Hotel.

Action - Contact Cranage Hall

Action: Following contact with Cranage, talk to the manager about hiring the hall at a discounted rate as the celebration is for cared for children.

Certificates

The young people really liked the certificates, as they had been involved with choosing the branding. They also really like having a separate celebration room to be able to go in.

The Planning Group

Other people have also emailed the participation team and would like to join the 2019 planning group.

AOB

The group agreed that the event in 2019 should be on Sunday 17th November.

The group discussed the option of inviting care leavers to the planning meetings, as they were not involved in this year's event. Kay shared with the group that a care leaver will be the new Youth Support Worker from January, and she will be able to work on the STAR Celebrations as her new project. She will be the lead for the activities and will be point of contact with the young people and the planning group.

The group also discussed storage of the activities/arts/crafts etc and whether it is best to store them at the lock up. It was agreed that we buy some watertight containers to store activities etc for next year's event.

Action: Establish budget left after this year's event

Draft Corporate Parenting Committee Forward Plan 2018-19

Meeting Date	Possible Areas for Discussion	Sub Group	Lead Officer
MARCH	Pledge Five - We will prepare young people for adulthood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy 	PFA	Sam Ankers
	Foster carer fortnight	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Foster carer survey and action plan	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Update on implementation of Children and Social Work Act	CPOG	Keith Martin
	Statistical first release summary	CPOG	Bev Harding
APRIL/MAY To be confirmed (meeting currently arranged for 23/4/19)	Enablers - Cross cutting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy Update on staffing and infrastructure, recruitment and retention, staff turnover and absence Update on signs of safety 	BAGCP	Keith Martin/Steve Nevitt
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q3)	BAGCP	Bev Harding
	Review of CPC Terms of Reference	CPOG	Gill Betton
JULY	Pledge One - We will be a good corporate parent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy Member engagement and communication Quality assurance Participation and Engagement 	BAGCP	Keith Martin
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q4)	BAGCP	Bev Harding

	Frontline visits monitoring reports	BAGCP	Keith/Gill
	Draft Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report	BAGCP	Jos Saunders/Keith Martin
	Advocacy and Independent Visitor Annual Update	BAGCP	Kate Rose/Sue Preston
SEPTEMBER	Pledge Three - We will work to achieve permanence and keep children safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from young person, practitioner or service • Progress against the corporate parenting strategy • Developments around permanence • Keeping young people safe, including vulnerable groups (YOS, SEND, exploited) – include update from LSCB Annual report 	Permanence	Kayleigh Wilshaw
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q1)	BAGCP	Bev Harding
	Fostering Panel Report	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Adoption Panel Report (Report to OSC)	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Adoption Annual Report (Report to OSC)	Permanence	Adoption Counts/Keith Martin
	IRO Annual Report	BAGCP	Karen Chan
NOVEMBER	Pledge Two - We will improve education, employment and training outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from young person, practitioner or service • Progress against the corporate parenting strategy • Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report 	Education	Laura Rogerson
	Any other items		
JANUARY	Pledge Four - We will improve health and wellbeing outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from young person, practitioner or service • Progress against the corporate parenting strategy • Health Annual Report 	Health	Shan McPartland
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q2)	BAGCP	Bev Harding

Standing items	Update from children and young people	BAGCP	Keith Martin/Angela Murney
	Corporate Parenting Update from Elected Members	N/A	Jos Saunders
	Update report, including how pledges have impacted	CPOG	Gill Betton/Keith Martin
Other	LGA questions for each focus area	CPOG	Gill Betton