

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting:	15 March 2022
Report Title:	Corporate Parenting Committee Forward Plan
Report of:	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1.** This paper presents a proposed forward plan of reports for the Corporate Parenting Committee for 2022-23 (Appendix 1) to support the committee to fulfil its role as given in its terms of reference:

'The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Committee in its role as an advisory committee to the Children and Families Committee is to ensure 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.'

- 1.2.** The committee is required by its terms of reference to receive a number of key annual reports, these are included within the forward plan.
- 1.3.** This report supports the work of the committee in achieving the aim in the council's Corporate Plan to 'be the best Corporate Parents to our children in care.'

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1** As above.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1.** The committee is asked to approve the forward plan of reports for the Corporate Parenting Committee for 2022-23.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1.** Agreeing a forward plan for the year ensures that the committee has oversight of the key areas for cared for children, young people, and care experienced adults, which will support the committee to fulfil its role as defined within its terms of reference.
- 4.2.** The committee will continue to operate as it does currently, and additional reports may be added to the forward plan throughout the year as required to allow services to effectively support children and young people, or at request from the committee.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1.** The committee may choose not to have a forward plan, however this is not recommended as it may mean the committee does not receive reports on all the key areas for cared for children, young people and care experienced young adults, which could compromise the effectiveness of the committee in fulfilling its role.

6. Background

- 6.1.** The forward plan has been developed based on the key outcomes we want to achieve for cared for children and young people – that they:
 - make decisions **together** with us about their support and their futures, and receive the support they need to thrive from us as their corporate parents
 - achieve good educational outcomes and are supported to develop the skills they need to have a fulfilling and successful career
 - have a stable, safe and loving home
 - are healthy – physically and mentally
 - have the skills they need to be prepared for adulthood and independence.
- 6.2.** It is proposed that committee meetings will be themed, so that each meeting focuses on one of these key outcomes. These themed meetings will allow for a deep dive on each topic and the progress to date. Themed meetings of the committee will allow meetings of the shadow committee to follow the same themes. This will support cared for children and young people to give their views on what needs to happen next to improve outcomes in each area.
- 6.3.** The aim is that a themed focus will support deeper and more meaningful discussion within the committee and shadow committee, as attention will not need to be divided across different topics. This themed focus will replace the current update reports to each meeting which cover the priorities in the current Corporate Parenting Strategy.

- 6.4.** The forward plan has also been informed by the feedback from committee during this year:
- The committee requested that feedback from the shadow committee was added as a standing agenda item – this has been incorporated within the forward plan.
 - The committee requested further information on data and performance, and for this to be presented within a clear context. It is proposed that a report will accompany the quarterly Corporate Parenting Scorecard which will give further context to the performance information and will provide narrative around the drivers for performance and impact on children and young people. The performance report presented to this meeting demonstrates the format this report would follow.
- 6.5.** For the meeting in November, we will ask young people if they would like to take over the meeting for November Children’s Rights Month.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1.** Cared for children and young people will be consulted on the activity of the committee through the shadow committee. Themed meetings of the committee will allow for themed meetings of the shadow committee, which will support meaningful engagement from children and young people on what needs to happen to improve outcomes and experiences for cared for children and care experienced adults.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

- 8.1.1. The committee is required to fulfil its terms of reference which are included within the constitution.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1. There are no financial implications.

8.3. Policy

- 8.3.1. This report supports the work of the committee in achieving the aim in the council’s Corporate Plan to ‘be the best Corporate Parents to our children in care.’ Agreeing a forward plan for the year ensures that the committee has oversight of the key areas for cared for children, young people, and care experienced adults, which will support the committee to fulfil its role as defined within its terms of reference.

8.4. Equality

- 8.4.1. There are no implications for equality, diversity and inclusion. The theme of working together with cared for children and young people, and care experienced adults will allow the views of children and young people to be heard. The theme on safe and stable homes will allow scrutiny of whether

we have the right homes to offer different communities of children and young people and to meet diverse needs.

8.5. Human Resources

8.5.1. There are no human resource implications.

8.6. Risk Management

8.6.1. The forward plan will support the committee to have oversight of all the key areas for cared for children, young people and care experienced adults.

8.6.2. There is no risk to specifying a forward plan as additional reports may be added to the forward plan throughout the year as required to allow services to effectively support children and young people, or at request from the committee.

8.7. Rural Communities

8.7.1. All communities are affected by the contents of this report.

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1. The forward plan will support the committee to have oversight of all the key areas for cared for children, young people and care experienced adults.

8.8.2. Themed meetings of the committee will allow for themed meetings of the shadow committee, which will support meaningful engagement from children and young people on what needs to happen to improve outcomes and experiences for cared for children and care experienced adults.

8.9. Public Health

8.9.1. The theme on health and wellbeing will ensure that the physical and mental health of cared for children and young people is prioritised.

8.10. Climate Change

8.10.1. The theme of having a safe and stable home will consider where our cared for children and young people currently live. There is a commitment to ensure that our cared for children live as close to home as possible, whenever this is safe to do so, so they can stay connected with their family, friends and local community. This also reduces our geographical footprint as travel is reduced.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Committee Forward Plan 2022-23
Background Papers:	None

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