

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 09 October 2018

Report Title: Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report 2017-18

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jos Saunders, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People (Acting)

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This sets out the purpose and content of the Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report, 2017-18.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That Cabinet endorses the Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report 2017-18 as set out at Appendix 1.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Constitution sets out a requirement for the Corporate Parenting Committee to report to the Council's Cabinet on at least an annual basis.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. The Corporate Parenting Committee could not produce an annual report or present this to another Committee, but this would require a change in the constitution. The annual report provides an opportunity for the Cabinet to review the effectiveness of this advisory committee.

5. Background

- 5.1. The Corporate Parenting Committee, established in May 2016, is a cross-party advisory committee appointed by the Cabinet. It has 12 Members who are appointed on a politically proportionate basis and nominated by the political groups.
- 5.2. 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.

- 5.3. The Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report, 2017-18 attached at Appendix 1 sets out the work of the Committee and progress against the Corporate Parenting Strategy over the past year.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. There are a number of pieces of legislation and statutory guidance that set out the role of the local authority in respect of cared for children and care leavers. There are statutory obligations and guidance for the role of the Local Authority as the Corporate Parent in the Children's Act 1989 and 2004, and the Children and Young People Act 2008.

6.2. Finance Implications

- 6.2.1. Bringing children into the care of the local authority represents a significant cost for the Council. It is important that these arrangements are scrutinised to ensure that they are effective.

6.3. Policy Implications

- 6.3.1. As a corporate parent, all Council policies should consider the impact on cared for children and care leavers.

6.4. Equality Implications

- 6.4.1. There are no direct equality implications.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

- 6.5.1. The increase of children in care and care leavers does have implications for staffing, both within Children's Social Care and enabling services.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.6.1. 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.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

- 6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People

6.8.1. Cared for children and care leavers are some of Cheshire East's most vulnerable children. The Council's response to meeting their needs will have a significant impact on the lives of these young people.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. 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.

8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. None.

9. Access to Information

9.1. None.

10. Contact Information

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

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(On behalf of Cllr Gill Merry, 2017/18 Chair of Corporate Parenting Committee)

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