

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting: 03 July 2018

Report Title: Corporate Parenting Frontline Visits

Portfolio Holder: Jos Saunders Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Gill Betton, Head of Children's Developments and Partnerships

1. Report Summary

1.1. This report provides an update to the Corporate Parenting Committee on developments to establish corporate parenting frontline visits.

2. Recommendation/s

2.1. Corporate Parenting Committee is asked to:

2.1.1. Note the contents of the report.

2.1.2. Endorse the proposed guidance and forms attached at Appendix 1 and 2, respectively.

2.1.3. Update on their plans to obtain DBS checks.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

3.1. The Corporate Parenting Committee has identified corporate parenting visits to frontline services as one of the ways to strengthen the corporate parenting role.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. Corporate parenting visits are one of the ways in which the Corporate Parenting Committee aims to strengthen the corporate parenting role, but other options are also being developed, including Member training and development and increased participation of children and young people.

5. Background

5.1 At the Corporate Parenting Committee in May Members endorsed the proposed approach to arrangements for frontline visits. Corporate Parenting Committee has agreed to establish a programme of visits to enhance their understanding of services for cared for children and care leavers. The guidance and attached form provides more information on the process and expectations.

Corporate Parenting Visit Guidance

- 5.2 The Guidance at Appendix 1 sets out the proposed areas for visits and local procedure.

Corporate Parenting Visit Form

- 5.3 The proposed visit form at Appendix 2 would be completed by Members following their visits to provide direct feedback on their findings. The form also includes a section for feedback from the Head of Service for Cared for Children and Care Leavers.

Annual Report to Committee

- 5.4 The findings from visits and the Head of Service response will be collated and presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee on an annual basis.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

- 5.5 A pre-requisite of the visits is that DBS checks are carried out on all members of the Corporate Parenting Committee. Members are asked to update on progress and issues relating to obtaining their DBS checks.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

To carry out frontline visits, it has been identified that Members will need to have DBS checks. Arrangements are under way to get these completed.

6.2. Finance Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

6.3. Equality Implications

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

6.4. Human Resources Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

6.5. Risk Management Implications

DBS checks ensure that risks associated with adult contact with children and young people have been considered. Other risk assessments will be completed by Service Managers, as appropriate.

6.6. Rural Communities Implications

None.

6.7. Implications for Children & Young People

6.7.1. Frontline visits will enhance Committee's knowledge and understanding of the experiences of children and young people in care and care leavers. This will mean that they become better corporate parents to some of Cheshire East's most vulnerable children.

6.8. Public Health Implications

6.8.1. 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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