

Children's Corporate Parenting Board – 30th March 2021

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Annual Overview of Children's Corporate Parenting Board Report 2020/21

Purpose

1. To consider the annual overview of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board (CCPB) report for 2020/21.

Recommendations

2.
 - That the Children's Corporate Parenting Board receive and comment on the attached draft annual report.
 - Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Experienced Young People and Children's Resources following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to make any necessary amendments to update the annual report prior to its submission to the Council.
 - That the Board identify any items that need to be rolled-forward for inclusion in the draft Annual Corporate parenting Board Programme for 2021/22.
 - The Service Manager, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding submits a report on the recruitment of Independent Visitors to a future meeting of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board
 - Members approve the primary change to the functioning of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board is agreed which is the formation of Working Groups in 2020 - 2021. The purpose of the Working groups are complete tasks or actions identified by the Corporate Parenting Board and Officers, based on needs analysis in the service.
 - Dudley three Children's Homes will invite members to visit the home to ensure that members maintain oversight into the quality of care children receive.
 - The Board recommend a full review on the functions of Dudley Lighthouse Links, endorsement of a best practice delivery model and contributing to the



strategic functioning through membership of the strategic emotional health and wellbeing working group.

- Head of Children in Care, Care Experienced Young People and Children's Resources was requested to provide a progress report with recommendations to the Children's Corporate Parenting Board on Dudley Lighthouse links by June 2021.

Background

3. All elected Councillors are responsible for the welfare of children and young people in care i.e. "corporate parenting". The Children's Corporate Parenting Board meets on a regular basis to consider matters which affect children and young people in care. This includes satisfying themselves that arrangements for the investigation of concerns about safety and welfare of children and young people in the care of the local authority are satisfactory.

The CCPB draft annual report for 2020/21 is attached as an Appendix. Minutes and outcomes of all Corporate Parenting Board Public meetings can be accessed online

<http://cmis.dudley.gov.uk/cmis5/Meetings/tabid/116/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/543/Meeting/6168/Committee/505/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

The Council has recognised the importance of retaining an annual review and report process. This is to ensure that the arrangements continue to align themselves to the needs of the Council and that the reporting arrangements remain adaptable and flexible to changes in circumstances.

4. Draft Annual Children's Corporate Parenting Board Programme 2021/22

Work to develop the Annual CPB Programme at this stage needs to allow for flexibility given any potential changes arising from the annual meeting of the Council.

Arising from the annual report, the views of the Board are invited on any items that need to be 'rolled forward' to the next municipal year or any items they would like to suggest at this stage for inclusion in the draft Annual CCPB Programme for 2021/22.

Finance

5. The costs of operating the Council's Childrens Corporate Parenting Board arrangements are being contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

6.
 - Corporate Parenting Boards exist in accordance with the provisions of the Children and Social Work Act 2017
 - The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out Corporate Parenting Principles for local authorities

A local authority in England must, in carrying out functions in relation to the children and young people mentioned in subsection (2), have regard to the need: -

(a) to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people.

(b) to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.

(c) to consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.

(d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.

(e) to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.

(f) for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.

(g) to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

(2) The children and young people mentioned in this subsection are—

(a) children who are looked after by a local authority, within the meaning given by section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.

(b) relevant children within the meaning given by section 23A (2) of that Act.

(c) persons aged under 25 who are former relevant children within the meaning given by section 23C (1) of that Act.

Equality Impact

7. Provision exists within the Children's Corporate Parenting Board for overview to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

8. Children's Corporate Parenting Board is administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required

Commercial/Procurement

9. This report has no impact on the Council's potential to commercially trade.



Health, Wellbeing and Safety

10. Reports to Children's Corporate Parenting Board will consider the impact on the health, wellbeing and safety of Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People This is consistent with building stronger, safer and more resilient communities in line with the Dudley Vision and to protect our residents' physical, and emotional health for the future.

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