
Cabinet Member

2 December 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Councillor Seaman - Cabinet Member for Children's and Young People

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (People)

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title:

Report on the outcomes of the Corporate Parenting Board 2018/19

Is this a key decision?

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

Executive Summary:

This report demonstrates the activity of the Corporate Parenting Board for the year 2018/19 and how the Board has contributed to improving outcomes for Coventry's Looked After Children.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is requested to:

- 1- Approve that the report of the Corporate Parenting Board 2018/19 be published.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendix is attached for consideration:

- Corporate Parenting Board- Report 2018/19

Background papers:

None.

Other useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Corporate parenting Board acts as the Cabinet Advisory Panel for looked after children. It is made up of members of the Council but is supplemented by a number of other individuals from the Council and its partners. Importantly, it also has representation from children and young people. The work of the Board is private and therefore often goes unnoticed. The following report brings the work of the Board into the public domain and gives an opportunity for public scrutiny.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Cabinet member is invited to note the progress in this area of work for the year 2018/19 and to agree that the report is published

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Consultation is a continual feature of worked with looked after children. This includes:

- Voices of Care- a group of looked after children and care leavers that provides a forum for them to be involved in issues that affect them
- Annual survey of looked after children
- Advocacy for any looked after child who wants to access this
- Individual input from children in their own care planning
- Use of apps including Mind Of My Own and leaving well.

This is not an exhaustive list but gives a flavour of the extensive consultation that takes place with children and young people. This is at the heart of practise with our looked after children and care leavers.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The Council is required to take account of corporate parenting principles by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. These are reviewed and supported through the Corporate parenting Board. This will continue.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendation in this report.

5.2 Legal implications

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced corporate parenting principles, which comprise of seven needs that local authorities in England must have regard to whenever they exercise a function in relation to looked-after children or care leavers (collectively referred to as looked-after children and young people).

The corporate parenting principles are intended to secure a better approach to fulfilling existing functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers and for the local authority to facilitate as far as possible secure, nurturing, and positive experiences for looked after children and young people and enable positive outcomes for them.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The work of the Corporate Parenting Board contributes to the Council Plan in the following ways:

Locally connected: the Board contributes to protecting our most vulnerable people. It oversees work to make sure that children get the best start to life whilst they are looked after or care leavers and contributes to improving choices for them.

Delivering our priorities with fewer resources: by working with partners the Board makes sure that services are integrated and therefore reduces duplication. It also is crucial for empowering looked after children in developments in the services that are provided for them.

Managing performance: the Board has a fundamental role in making sure that services for looked after children are of a high quality.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There are no risks associated with this report. However, the Corporate Parenting Board will continue to scrutinise the work regarding looked after children across the city.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Corporate parenting is a legal duty in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Corporate Parenting Board is the key body for making sure this duty is discharged to a high standard in Coventry.

6.4 Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA)

The Corporate Parenting Board continues to promote the welfare of children who are looked after and care leavers. This improves outcomes for this vulnerable group of children and adults.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Partners are key partners in service provision of services to looked after children and improving their life chances. They are represented on the Corporate Parenting Board

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Legal: Julie Newman		Place		19 November 2019
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Members: Cllr P Seaman				18 November 2019

This report is published on the council's website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

Appendices