

## **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: Time:	Wednesday, 12 October 2022 4.30 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

Contact Officer:	Joe D'Henin	
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Please note that public seating is limited, therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

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This meeting will be webcast at <a href="https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home">https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home</a>

## AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
- 2. APOLOGIES

## 3. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

## 4. PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS

## 4.1 **Public Questions**

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Friday 7th October 2022 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: <u>Document Data Protection Protocol</u> for <u>Public Speakers at Committees | Wirral Council</u>

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

#### 4.2 Statements and Petitions

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Friday 7th October 2022 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Committee. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding one minute) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. Please give notice of petitions to committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

#### 4.3 **Questions by Members**

Questions by Members to dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders 12.3 to 12.8.

## 5. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22 (Pages 1 - 18)

## 6. CORPORATE PARENTING WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2023 (Pages 19 - 24)

## **WIRRAL**

## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

## WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

REPORT TITLE:	CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
	EDUCATION

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021-2022.

The Annual Report highlights the activity and achievements of the local authority and partners in fulfilling their corporate parenting responsibilities.

It also provides an overview of the work of the Corporate Parenting Board over the past 12 months in fulfilling its duties in championing the corporate parenting principles and understanding the experiences of children looked after and care leavers.

The work outlined in this report delivers against the following priorities of The Wirral Plan 2021 – 2026:

- Brighter Futures
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Active and Healthy Lives

This decision affects all wards. It is not a key decision.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to endorse the Annual Report and the work undertaken to date to ensure that the local authority and partners are effective corporate parents.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To allow the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider the work undertaken by the local authority and partners to fulfil their corporate parenting responsibilities.

## 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Do nothing: This has been discounted as it ensures transparency and legitimacy for the work of the local authority and partners in undertaking their roles as corporate parents.

## 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and supporting statutory guidance; *"Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers"* introduces the seven principles that local authorities and partners must have regard to when considering support for children looked after and care leavers. The principles are:
  - to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of children and young people
  - to encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
  - to consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
  - to help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
  - to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people
  - forchildren and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
  - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

## 3.2 Annual Report 2021-2022

- 3.3 The Annual Report, as attached at appendix 1, provides an overview of the work carried out over the past 12 months by the local authority and partners in their role as corporate parents. In summary the Annual Report covers:
  - the voice of children looked after and care leavers: the report highlights how children and young people's voice has been listened and responded to.
  - A summary of achievements against the priorities in the previous Corporate Parenting Strategy. These are focussed around:
    - o Accommodation and Housing
    - Health and wellbeing

- Education and Jobs
- Transitions
- > A celebration of Our Space, the Care Leavers Hub and the opportunities provided
- Fostering and Adoption information, including an overview of the service and performance over the past 12 months.
- The work and role of the Corporate Parenting Board over the past 12 months including the launch of the new Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2021-2025
- 3.4 The Report evidences to stakeholders, including Ofsted, of the important work carried out to support children looked after and care leavers.

## 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the report.

## 5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of the report.

## 6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications arising out of the report.

## 7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 It is important that the local authority and partners can capture and share their work as corporate parents with stakeholders including elected members and children and young people.

## 8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Annual Report will be shared on the Right Side of Care website, and a childfriendly version will be made and shared with members of the Children in Care and Care Leavers Council's.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report, but any associated actions may require an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no environment and climate implications.

## 11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community wealth implications.

#### REPORT AUTHOR: Hannah Myers Performance and Improvement Manager Hannah.myers@wirral.gov.uk

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021-2022

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Statutory guidance: "Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers"

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

# CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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# Introduction

We want all children and young people to achieve, be healthy, safe and resilient. We want Wirral to be the best place for children and young people to grow up in regardless of that child or young person's background.



The government introduced clear **corporate parenting principles** that require all departments within a local authority, including staff, elected members and partner agencies, to recognise their role as a corporate parent and encourage them to look at the support and services they provide. Wirral Council works to be the best corporate parent to our children and young people by following these key principles:

- 1. To act in the best interest and promote the physical, mental health and wellbeing of those children and young people.
- 2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- 3. To consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
- 4. To help those children and young people to gain access to, and make the best use of, the services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
- 5. To promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people.
- 6. To ensure those children and young people are safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and workplace.
- 7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.



As Corporate Parents we have a special responsibility to make sure children and young people who may have had disrupted experiences of family life and experienced trauma get the support they need to live the happiest and healthiest lives possible.

It is our responsibility to keep them safe, make sure their experiences in care are positive and improve their on-going life chances. We recognise that no single service operating alone can achieve this and that we need to build close, coordinated working relationships with partners if we are to succeed in improving outcomes.

This report summarises the work that has been undertaken in Wirral over the last 12 months to ensure good outcomes for our children looked after and care experienced young people and to ensure corporate parenting is at the forefront of everyone's agenda.

## Simone White, Director for Children, Families and Education



# Positive participation for our Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Over the past 12 months, our Participation and Engagement Service has supported children looked after and care leavers with a range of opportunities the Participation and Engagement team aims to:

- Ensure children looked after and young people have a voice in decisions made that affect them
- Represent children and young people's views locally, regionally, and nationally
- Develop links and mechanisms for children looked after and young people to contribute towards the development of the Children and Young People's Department
- Ensure that services for them are relevant to their needs
- Develop projects locally, regionally and nationally
- Ensure children looked after are consulted around service delivery, and are involved in the recruitment, selection and training of social care staff
- Support the Care Councils to effectively monitor service delivery in areas of social care that affect them
- Create opportunities for young people in care, leaving care and with additional needs to participate in positive activities, and promote their achievements
- Work in partnership with other agencies and services that support children looked after and care leavers such as Oomoo, Barnardo's etc



## Highlights over past 12 months...

Our Space – Care Leavers Hub which provides access to support officers, Personal Advisors and drop-in services so that care leavers can access face to face support as and when required.





The hub provides a safe space for young people, acting as a place for social gatherings and interaction, helping to improve socialisation (particularly post-COVID) and prevent young people becoming the victims of exploitation. Training and learning opportunities are now being coordinated and provided, aligned to the wishes and needs identified by young people, the skills classes are supporting both the development of new vocational skills and independent living skills.



This year, Care Leavers week was back in person and a success with a good turnout and a wide range of services being offered including a talent show and bake off.



This year, children looked after have continued to be engaged in a range of consultations. These have included consultation about independent visitors, terminology and developing the Juno children's homes.





Children Looked After have been involved in the recruitment, selection and training of social care staff. This has included for example, the Joint Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Head of SEND.

Opportunities to contribute towards the development of Services to ensure that they are relevant to their needs has included in-depth work with the Head of Provider and Commissioned Services.





# Delivering our priorities – achievements over past 12 months

Over the past 12 months, there has been positive progress made in meeting the priorities of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This Strategy expired in 2021. These include:

## Priority 1: Accommodation and Housing

The Partnership Accommodation programme which was established in 2019 to drive forward improvements in the quality and offer of homes for children looked after and care leavers. The main developments this year have included:

## • Juno

Work has been ongoing with Juno who are the community interest company Wirral and other local authorities in collaboration with locally to provide bespoke children's homes across the region. The Council agreed to invest funding in this development and allowed land assets and opportunities to be explored. The first Juno home was identified and is scheduled to open in Oxton around December 2022, with further homes planned.

A director of care was appointed in June 2022, with interviews for the registered manager taking place during August 2022.

• Willowtree Home for residential and short break for children with disabiliti*es* 

The Willow tree expansion work was completed in 2022, providing Willow tree with the capacity for additional capacity for children with disabilities to be able to remain in Wirral without necessitating move out of area. This will benefit children locally as it means that they can maintain links with family and friends and



schools more easily. There is also a cost saving benefit for the local authority to be able to provide the offer of care locally.

• Children's short break/respite/crisis care home for children with Learning Disability/Autism Spectrum Disorder

Following a successful expression of interest stage and a full Project Initiation Document (PID) being submitted to NHSE and approved the project aim is to use the capital funds to purchase and refurbish a property for the purpose of developing a service for children and young people with Learning Difficulties, Autism and presenting mental health difficulties, who are at risk of attendance at A&E.

## Priority 2: Health and wellbeing

## • 00M00

OOMOO started in February 21 as a virtual offer due to the COVID restrictions but by March 21 was fully operational and involving face-to-face and direct contact. OOMOO is the emotional wellbeing and mental health service for children looked after and care experienced young people within Wirral.

## Health assessments and wellbeing checks

Timeliness of health assessments and review health assessments have remained positive.

## • Gym and swim passes

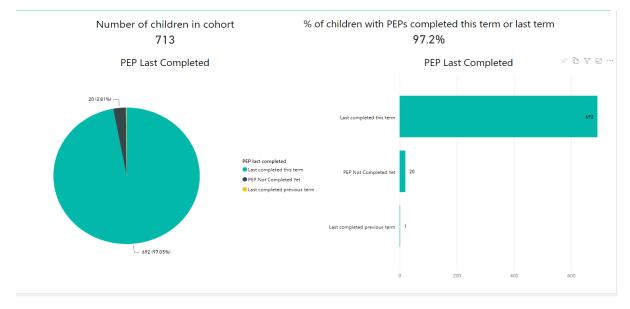
22 gym and swim passes were provided to care leavers for the initial 3 month pass in 2021 in recognition of the interdependencies between good physical health and positive emotional health and wellbeing. Since then a further 29 were issued in 2022. 27 of these have been renewed evidencing the positive impact this has made.



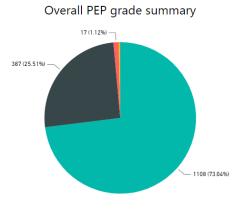
## Priority 3: Education and Jobs

## Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

Completion of Personal Education Plans within the statutory timescale has continued to remain high over the past year. Now, between 90-95% of PEPs are completed within timescales each term. Current data shows that 97.2% of PEPs were completed this term or last term.



A new quality assurance process has helped to drive improvements in the quality of plans, ensuring that plans and targets are achievable and aligned to the wishes and feelings of children and young people.



Overall Grade of PEP . Good Outstanding ORequires Improvement Oladequate (Blank)

## **Priority 4: Transitions**

A transition protocol and pathway is embedded and improved training and development offer regarding transitions.



## Fostering progress 21-22

The overall aim of the Fostering Service is to provide a range of high quality and safe foster placements that meet the needs of our children looked after in line with the requirements of Care Standards Act 2002 and the Fostering Regulations 2011 including the National Minimum Standards for Fostering 2011.

The service is responsible for:

- Support, supervision, and training of foster carers including family and friend carers (connected carers)
- Ensuring provision of local safe and supportive foster placements in accordance with fostering national minimum standards
- Promoting placement stability and permanence planning for our children
- Recruitment and assessment of new foster carers

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, there were 306 mainstream and connected Fostering Households. In total, these households support 58% of children looked after in Wirral.

## • Supervision and support

A summary of the achievements, progress and plans in relation to supervision and support includes:

- a new reporting tool has been introduced on foster carer training. This has enabled a better understanding of the uptake of the five mandatory training sessions.
- there is now evidence of improvements in foster carer training compliance resulting with current data showing 92% of carers have completed safer care, 63% recording and reporting, 59% safeguarding, 57% equality and diversity and 45% first aid.



- Two of the mandatory training sessions will be incorporated into the Skills to Foster Programme so that they are completed before registration
- A new provider for the First Aid training to offer a more flexible package for carers, making training available at weekends and evenings.
- Mentoring schemes continue to be well received across the Service
- A new 'Kinship' Service has been commissioned to provide emotional and practical support for connected carers
- The Family Toolbox has been launched with foster carers to provide advice and guidance for all families
- A review of fostering payments has commenced benchmarking against other local authorities and considering cost of living rises and inflation.

## • Fostering Panel

A summary of the achievements, progress and plans in relation to the Fostering Panel includes:

- 51 Fostering Panels have been held
- Two new experienced Fostering Panel chairs have been appointed and the central list of panel members has been increased was increased
- Feedback from those attending Panel meetings has been positive
- Panel members report that the overall quality of assessments being presented to panel from the assessment team has significantly improved over the last 12 months



- 101 approvals have been made by the Panel. This is an increase from 2019 (data not captured nationally for 2020) which was 91.
- The Panel also approved 104 deregistration's, an increase from 92 in 2019 resulting in a small overall decrease in LA registered carers, which is reflected nationally.

## • Recruitment

A summary of the achievements, progress and plans in relation to recruitment and retention includes:

- a review of the timeliness of foster carer assessment processes has been undertaken with mainstream assessments resulting in a new completion target of 12-weeks, which is in line with our Independent Fostering Agency competitors.
- an increased emphasis on marketing and promotion through campaigning which has included
  - Press release launch in January 2022
  - Overview for visibility on the social media ads with 568 clicks through to the website over a 2.5-week period:
  - Linda Wilde ITV Christmas Advent heroes' campaign
  - Julie McLean Case study January 2022:
  - Tree planting event December 2021
  - Newsletter to carers
- As a result of the marketing and promotion, there has been 152 enquiries to date this year, 37 higher than the previous year. This has resulted in an increase of mainstream assessments to 19 compared to 11 in 20-21. A break down in the result of all enquiries is contained within the report.



# Next Steps – Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-2025

Throughout the past 12 months, dedicated work has focussed on developing a new three-year Strategy for Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

The Strategy was developed in consultation with young people who contributed their views. What we want to achieve:

- Emotional and physical health and wellbeing making sure you are happy and healthy all the way through your childhood and into adulthood.
- Independence and transition to adulthood Focussing on helping you learn 'life skills' from an early age and getting everything in place so you can be supported if you need it after you turn 18.
- Further work is required on ensuring that transition arrangements (whether they include staying put, transition to adult services for some or to independent living) are seamless and young people feel confident and empowered when they turn 18.
- Positive Lived Experiences Making sure there are enough of the right people to look after you in suitable homes whether this is a short or long stay/time.

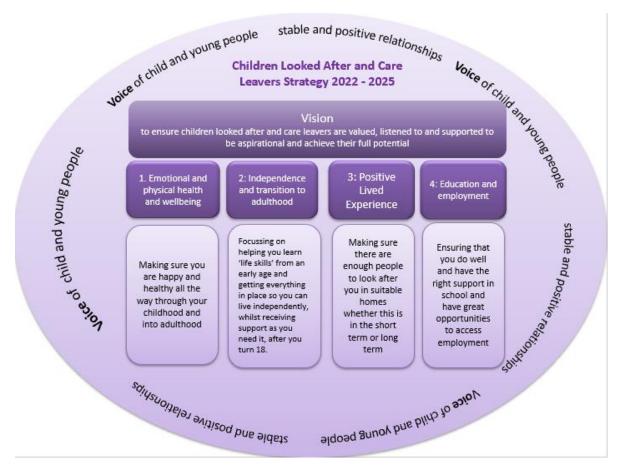
We want to review the current model of offer for fostering ensuring there is dedicated training and recruitment support, develop a support offer for Special Guardians which is robust and tailored to need. We want to continue to explore new models of accommodation particularly for Care Leavers where



challenges around homelessness are becoming more apparent.

- Education and Employment Ensuring that you do well and have the right support in school and have the right opportunities to access employment.
  - Further work around inclusion, aligned to the SEND transformation programme will form the basis of planning and priorities moving forward.

Underpinning the Strategy will be the voice of the child which will be the bedrock of planning, reviewing, and considering the outcomes for young people. This will transcend all the priorities within the Strategy.







## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

## WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

REPORT TITLE:	CORPORATE PARENTING WORK PROGRAMME	
	2022-2023	
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND	
	EDUCATION	

#### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The report provides members of the Corporate Parenting Panel an overview of the proposed work programme for 2022-2023.

The work programme is aligned to the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-2025.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to:

- 1. Endorse the proposed work programme for 2022-2023 attached at appendix 1; and,
- 2. Agree that the delivery of the work programme be undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Board, which will meet three times between November 2022 and March 2023.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To promote the work of the Corporate Parenting Board and receive support for its work programme 2022-23.
- 1.2 To agree delivery for oversight and monitoring of corporate parenting responsibilities to the Corporate Parenting Board.

## 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Do nothing: This has been discounted as it ensures transparency and legitimacy for the work of the local authority and partners in undertaking their roles as corporate parents.

## 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and supporting statutory guidance; *"Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers"* introduces the seven principles that local authorities and partners must have regard to when considering support for children looked after and care leavers. The principles are:
  - to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of children and young people
  - to encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
  - to consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
  - to help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
  - to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people
  - forchildren and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
  - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
- 3.2 As outlined within the Council's Constitution, the Corporate Parenting Panel acts as the formal Sub-Committee of the Children, Young People and Education Committee. The Panel has delegated authority to exercise responsibility for the Council's functions relating to the delivery of Corporate Parenting functions with the exception of policy decisions which will remain with the Children and Young People's Committee.
- 3.3 The Corporate Parenting Board acts as an advisory group to the Corporate Parenting Panel. It meets in private to respect the sensitive nature of information discussed about children looked after (CLA) and care leavers. This is particularly the

case as there are young people representatives of the care councils who attend meetings to share stories and real-life experiences about being in care.

## 3.4 Work programme 2022-2023

- 3.5 The work programme will focus on listening to the voice of children looked after and care leavers. It will dedicate time to hear their views and will be shaped by their emerging priorities. This means it will be flexible to ensure that the voice of children looked after is heard.
- 3.6 Underpinning this, it is proposed that the work programme focusses on the priorities in the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-2025. These are:
  - 1. **Emotional and physical health and wellbeing** making sure you are happy and healthy all the way through your childhood and into adulthood
  - Independence and transition to adulthood Focussing on helping you learn 'life skills' from an early age and getting everything in place so you can be supported if you need it after you turn 18
  - 3. **Positive Lived Experiences** Making sure there are enough of the right people to look after you in suitable homes whether this is a short or long stay/time.
  - 4. Education and Employment Ensuring that you do well and have the right support in school and have the right opportunities to access employment
- 3.6 The priorities will be explored in detail and officers expected to report on progress and activity to date to promote and support improvements in these areas.
- 3.7 In addition, the work programme will include consideration of performance data, feedback and consultations from children looked after and care leavers and the annual report of the Head of the Virtual School. Activity will be programmed accordingly. A copy of the draft work programme is attached at appendix 1.

## 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

## 5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from the report.
- 5.2 The local authority has a statutory responsibility to have regard to the corporate parenting principles as outlined in guidance and legislation.

## 6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no significant resource implications arising from the report.

## 7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Failing to ensure robust governance arrangements are in place to our children looked after and care leavers creates a risk that there is insufficient oversight and scrutiny which both gives assurance and drives improvements to improve outcomes.

## 8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 There are two co-opted members from the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Council's who are invited to sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from the report.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no environment and climate implications.

#### 11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community wealth implications arising from the report.

#### REPORT AUTHOR: Hannah Myers Performance and Improvement Manager Hannahmyers@wirral.gov.uk

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Work programme 2022-2023

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Children and Families Act 2014 Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2021-2025

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

## **CORPORATE PARENTING WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**

## STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting frequency	Lead Officer
Voice of children looked after	Each meeting	Fiona
and care leavers through		O'Shaughnessy,
Children in Care and Care		Participation
Leaver Councils		Manager
Performance and insight report	Each meeting	Tricia Thomas,
		Performance and
		Improvement
		Manager
Report of the Head Teacher of	Annual	Trish Lewis, Virtual
the Virtual School		School Head

## AGENDA ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Potential timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Theme 1: Emotional and physical	November 2022	Eifion Burke, Head of
health and wellbeing		Permanence
		Helen Heeley, Designated
		Nurse for Safeguarding
Theme 2: Independence and	January 2023	Eifion Burke, Head of
transition to adulthood		Permanence
		Paul Smith, Head of
		Employment and Skills
Theme 3: Positive Lived	March 2023	Anne-Marie Carney,
Experiences		Commissioning Manager
		Eifion Burke, Head of
		Permanence
Theme 4: Education and	March 2023	Trish Lewis, Head of
Employment		Virtual School
		Paul Smith, Head of
		Employment and Skills

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