



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Wednesday, 19 June 2023

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| REPORT TITLE: | CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 |
| 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 2022-2023.

The Annual Report highlights the activity and achievements of the local authority and partners in fulfilling their corporate parenting responsibilities. This report is to provide an update on the delivery of the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2022 to 2025, focusing upon the four key areas of the strategy outlining plans and progress:

- Emotional and Physical Health and Wellbeing
- Independence and Transition to adulthood
- Personal Lived Experiences
- Education and Employment

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 enable the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider the work undertaken by the Local Authority and partners to fulfil their corporate parenting responsibilities and to enable Members to scrutinise arrangements.

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.
 - For children 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 The Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy was developed in 2021 to ensure that Children Looked After and Care Leavers had a voice in designing what they wanted corporate parenting and its approaches to focus upon. Four key work streams already outlined in this report were identified. These four work streams are underpinned by the work of the corporate parenting operational group which comprises of key members across the partnership.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 of the report provides an update of the delivery of the four key work streams which are aligned to the themes of the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy including work undertaken, future plans, and progress.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial implications relating to Foster Carers and the Cheshire Wirral Partnership, CWP, Integrated Home are addressed in page 15 in appendix 1 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 Staffing implications have been highlighted within 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. This needs to be undertaken regularly to ensure that statutory responsibilities are met.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Young people have been consulted on the Children Looked After and Care Leaver Strategy prior to its finalisation and were involved from the outset in its design. Young people are regularly consulted with via the children in care Council and the Participation and Engagement Team to better understand feedback around each aspect of the strategy and its impact, as well as any other issues that are of renewed or new importance to young people.

8.2 Further to this a range of internal partners and external organisations are involved in the design and review of the strategy.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct environment and climate implications arising from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Wirral are supporting care leavers to achieve apprenticeships and increase their skill set within the Wirral working economy. This report highlights the provision of internal council staff to support long term support strategies and change for Wirral children and families.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Progress Update 2023

Some information in the appendix may not be suitable to view for people with disabilities, users of assistive technology or mobile phone devices. Please contact eifionburke@wirral.gov.uk if you would like these documents in an accessible format.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-25](#)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel in accordance with the following extract of its Terms of Reference:

“A Sub-Committee... with delegated authority to exercise responsibility for the Council’s functions relating to the delivery by or on behalf of the Council, of Corporate Parenting functions”.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Corporate Parenting Panel | 12.10.2022 |