

# Corporate Parenting Board

## 22 March 2018

<b>Report title</b>	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children and Young People	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Alice Vickers Tel Email	Corporate Parenting Officer 01902 553010 Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>		

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### Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to consider and comment on the developments of the Corporate Parenting Strategy since March 2017 and the progress of the Action Plan.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 That the Corporate Parenting Board considers the developments over the past year of Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) approved a two-year Strategy in December 2015, which ends this municipal year. An Action Plan to look at five areas of focus, which are the main commitments laid down in the Strategy, has been developed and implemented throughout the year.

- 2.2 The aim of this report is to feedback on progress.

## **3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.**

- 3.1 The Strategy was approved and endorsed by the CWC's Cabinet in December 2015.
- 3.2 The CWC pledge to Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers (CL) focuses on four areas; these are Education Employment and Training (EET), Health, Social Skills, Corporate Responsibilities and Prevention of Criminalisation. The Senior Officers Group, which consists of Heads of Service from CWC and lead officers from partner agencies monitor the progress of the Action Plan and Strategy. This report will focus on each area in turn and highlight key progress and discuss any areas of challenge.
- 3.3 Education, Employment and Training (EET)

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Help young people to feel able to challenge and share their views in the Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- Raise Aspirations of LAC and CL and professionals supporting them.
- Maximise access to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for LAC and CL.

With the partnership of the Senior Officers Group and the Employment, Education and Training (EET) Action Group the key requirements for EET have been delivered and the following achievements have been actioned:

- Care Leavers Week focusing on university, work experience, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities in partnership with Wolverhampton University and Jaguar Landrover.
- An electronic PEP has been designed to ensure the voice of the child is being captured.
- Eight of the 10 work experiences for vulnerable young people have been accessed by LAC or CL in this year.
- 98% of CL have an up to date Pathway Plan and are being quality assured to ensure evidence of career planning is included.

- Work experience, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities are being monitored on the types of opportunity and the number of those accessing these opportunities.
- Foster carer training has been developed and is being delivered on accessing EET opportunities
- Trowers and Hamlin Solicitors put on Aspirational workshops for young people on 5 May 2017.

### 3.4 Health

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- To Ensure LAC have access to appropriate family planning support to enable them to make appropriate choices on contraception early enough.
- Health support for CL to transition to adult health services if required.

The Corporate Parenting Officer regularly attends the LAC Health Steering Group, which is a partnership group between the LA (Local Authority), CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), RWT (Royal Wolverhampton Trust) and BCPFT (Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust). This Group has achieved the following:

- Take Over Day gave members of Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Leavers Forum (CLF) the opportunity to meet with health professionals from CCG, RWT and CAMHS with an agenda focused on transitions to adult services.
- Business case and successful recruitment for an additional named nurse for LAC and CL placed out of city.

### 3.5 Social Skills and Development

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- To support LAC in receiving consistent placement, residential and foster care.
- To raise and strengthen support for CL in society with a programme of activities through National Care Leavers week.
- All LAC and CL have access to leisure services provided by WV active for free and foster carers to receive colleague discount.

Through regular meetings with the CiCC and CLF, the following achievements have been made through the year:

- Instagram and Twitter accounts set up for keeping young people up to date on events and opportunities to participate and access services.
- CL Christmas party took place 3 December 2017, organised with support from Councillor Kaur, local charities and local businesses.
- Partnership with HeadStart in promoting the needs and issues of LAC and CL, through their conference and events.
- Joint party for Christmas for the CiCC, CLF and Be Safe Teams.
- Raised the participation of the CiCC from six young people to 17 and CLF from five to ten young adults.

- Access to rooms at WV Active, Aldersley Stadium for LAC, CL and foster carer events.

### 3.6 Corporate Responsibilities

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- To work with DWP and financial experts in developing a scheme which protects CL savings.
- Ensuring the role of corporate parenting is understood to support LAC and CL corporately.

Through regular meetings of the Senior Officers Group for Corporate Parenting, the following achievements have been made throughout the year:

- CL and LAC nominated for national and local awards celebrating success (Gareth Rafferty Young Citizen Award, Kyron Hughes – Design a Logo for Catch 22).
- Assistant Corporate Parenting Officer has been successful in being appointed on to the National Bench Marking Forum for CL.
- The Assistant Corporate Parenting Officer has raised the issue of benefits and effect on savings with the National Bench Marking Forum for CL.
- A young person and two foster carers have become members of the CPB.
- Education Board requesting the LAC and Skills team to work in partnership to support LAC and CL into Education, Employment and Opportunities.
- Councillor training on Corporate Parenting booklet has been sent out to all Councillors with a full face to face training session.
- Developed the Regional Corporate Parenting Group for the West Midlands.

### 3.7 Prevention of Criminalisation of LAC and CL

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Total Respect (TR) training and Corporate Parenting training for frontline police officers and PCSOs.
- Design and distribute an entitlement and expectation document for LAC and CL in custody.
- Increase police presence at young peoples' social and celebration events.

In partnership with the Police and Her Majesty's Prisons (HMP) the following has been achieved in this period:

- 40 frontline police officers have been TR trained.
- 12 Specialist police officers from Neighbourhood and Strengthening Family Teams have been TR trained.
- Introduction to TR delivered to HMP Conference on CL.
- 23 CL leads from the Midlands Regional HMP group have received TR training.

- Attendance at CLF at Drake Hall with two of CWC young people who are in custody in attendance.
- Attendance at the regional HMP and LA meetings to gain good practice.
- A draft leaflet on entitlement for CL in custody has been completed and is now out for consultation.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 Any costs associated with developing the Strategy and implementing the Action Plan will be found from existing budgets within the Children and Young People's Service.  
[NM/07032017/C]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.  
[RB/06032018/B]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 An initial equalities screening has been completed on this Strategy and Action Plan, this has highlighted that equality implications have been addressed.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

#### **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 9.1 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-2017.