

<b>Report title</b>	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2021	
<b>Decision delegation</b>	RED	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Director, Children's Services	
<b>Originating service</b>	Looked After Children	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Alice Vickers Tel Email	Corporate Parenting Officer 01902 553005 Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	People Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board Corporate Parenting Board	9 April 2018 10 April 2018 24 May 2018

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**Recommendations for decision:**

That Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy for three years from April 2018 to March 2021.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, to make any final amendments before publication.

**Recommendations for noting:**

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That the Corporate Parenting Strategy will be presented at the Corporate Parenting Board on 24 May 2018.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 That Cabinet considers and approves the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2021 for children and young people in or leaving care and endorses its use across the Council and its partners in order to prioritise the needs of this vulnerable group of children and young people.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council approved a two year Corporate Parenting Strategy in December 2015, which ceased on 31 March 2018.
- 2.2 The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced by the Government in 1998 as part of a drive to improve the lives of children who are looked after by the local authority. The Corporate Parenting responsibility was reiterated and reinforced in 2007 with the release of the White Paper Care Matters-Time for Change and the underpinning legislation, Children and Young People Act 2008.
- 2.3 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 compels local authorities to evidence how they meet the seven Corporate Parenting Principles as they are statutory in relation to looked after children and care leavers. These seven Corporate Parenting Principles include:
- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people.
  - To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
  - To take into account of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
  - 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.
  - To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
  - For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
  - To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

## **3.0 Progress**

- 3.1 It is envisaged that this new strategy will give a clear and concise framework to inform children and young people, in or leaving care, of what level of Corporate Parenting they can receive from the City of Wolverhampton Council and its partners. In addition, it gives Wolverhampton's Corporate Parents clear and constructive guidance to ensure services and support is good enough for children and young people in or leaving care.
- 3.2 Consultation with young people will take place annually, to ensure the relevance and development of the action plan that supports the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This

consultation will be with children and young people in or leaving care and a sample of their corporate parents.

- 3.3 Every good parent wants the best for their child, the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 sets a clear commitment from the City of Wolverhampton Council to its children and young people in or leaving care.

#### **4.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 4.1 Responses to the new act and its implementation by other authorities have been researched, but currently no other council has amended their Corporate Parenting Strategy in line with the new duties.

#### **5.0 Reasons for decision**

- 5.1 Approving the Corporate Parenting ensures compliance with the new Children and Social Work Act 2017 and endorses the Council's commitment to its children and young people in or leaving care. The strategy's purpose is to ensure the council is confident in delivering its corporate parenting responsibilities and is able to scrutinise services and support ensuring:

- Is this good enough for my child?
- Would this have been good enough for me as a child?
- Is this the best that we can achieve?

#### **6.0 Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications attached to the Corporate Parenting Strategy, as the provision is covered within existing budgets.  
[AS/05042018/W]

#### **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy ensures the Council complies with its statutory duties as defined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.  
[RB/0902018/Q]

#### **8.0 Equalities implications**

- 8.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy's purpose is to mitigate the inequalities that children and young people who are in or leaving care face. An initial Equalities Analysis has been completed.

## **9.0 Environmental implications**

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 Human resources implications**

10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 Corporate landlord implications**

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.