Wolverhampton City Council

#### **OPEN DECISION ITEM**

Corporate Parenting Board Date: 26 JUNE 2013

Originating Service Group(s) LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Contact Officer(s)/ LORNA TULL Telephone Number(s) Ext 3887

Title: CORPORATE PARENTING ACTION PLAN 2012/13 AND 2013/14

#### **SUMMARY**

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To share with the Corporate Parenting Board the update of the Corporate Parenting Strategic action plan 2012/13.
- 1.2 The attached Corporate Parenting Action Plan details in full progress made against the agreed actions, those not achieved in 2012/13 will be carried over to the 2013/14 action plan.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Corporate Parenting Action Plan for 2012/13 is received and noted and key actions not achieved are rolled over to the 2013/14 action plan.
- 2.2 That the Corporate Parenting Action Plan for 2013/14 be approved.

#### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is funded through the Care Matters Budget. The approved budget allocation for 2012/13 was £221,000; all costs incurred during the financial year were contained from with the budget.
- 3.2 The approved budget for Care Matters for 2013/14 is £177,000.
- 3.3 Any costs associated with implementing the Corporate Parenting Action Plan for 2013/14 will be contained with the approved budget for 2013/14.
- 3.4 The budget allows for a number of Corporate Parenting associated posts to be employed together with organising corporate parenting events and participation that includes Children in Care Council. [MA/20062013/J]

#### 4. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Wolverhampton City Council as a whole has a legal responsibility and duty to act as a 'corporate parent' by co-operating in promoting welfare for all looked after children and young people. These duties and responsibilities are set out in statutory guidance, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the duties to promote the welfare of Looked after OPEN DECISION COMMITTEE

Children under the Children Act 2004 and Children and Young Persons Act 2008. [FD/19062013/L]

### 5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The national outcomes for looked after children and care leavers are below their peers, the action plan is designed to have a positive and beneficial impact on some of the most disadvantaged and deprived children and young people within the city. The implementation of the action plan will significantly contribute towards improving and enhancing the outcomes and life chances of looked after children and young people.

### 6. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no environment implications.

## Completed/progressing in timescale

## Not completed in timescale/not on target

# Action Plan 2013-14

Not started yet – within timescale

Outcome (what is to be achieved)	Target and	d timescale		Lead Officer ad	ccountable
A Corporate Strategic Commitment	<ul> <li>By March 2014:</li> <li>Raised awareness of Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting responsibilities across authority and partners.</li> <li>To embed Corporate Parenting across the authority and partners.</li> </ul>		Assistant Direct	t / Lorna Tull ctor accountable	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)		Who	By when		Six month update
Implement Council Policy to offer extended paid and unpaid leave to employees and Members who become approved as Foster Carers or prospective adopters for the Council.		LAC service Human Resources Sue Davies HOS	August 201	3	Policy in draft form, awaiting approval
Implement new programme of raising awareness of Corporate Parenting responsibilities for all council staff and partner agencies through training and communication activities		Lorna Tull	March 2014		Further events are planned for over the next 6 months

Outcome (what is to be achieved)	Target and timescale	Lead Officer accountable
Ensure the Positive Active Participation and involvement of all LAC and Care	By March 2014:	Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull
Leavers.	Increase access to participation opportunities	

	specifically for Looked after Children.		Assistant Dire	ctor accountable	
	Facilitate Looked After Children's access to wider participation opportunities		John Welsby		
		ooked after Children ng and recruitment &			
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)		Who	By when	1	Six month update
Establish 3 focus groups to ascertain the views experience of parents of looked after children ar people.		LAC service  Lorna Tull	March 2014	4	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)		Who	By when		Six month update
Robust links to be developed with the Local Neighbourhood Partnership to ensure LAC and participation in localised decision making.	CL's	LAC service Local Neighbourhood partnership Lorna Tull	March 2014	4	
Increase the number of children and young peoplinvolved in corporate parenting activities and evorganising two 2 road shows to promote participengagement.	ents by	Lorna Tull	December	2013	

Deliver Participation and Engagement Road shows for staff across Children, Young People's and Families services.	Lorna Tull	February 2013	
To hold and deliver 4 Total Respect training events for multi-agency partners.	Lorna Tull	March 2013	

Outcome (what is to be achieved)	Target and	l timescale		Lead Officer ac	countable
Improved access to universal services for all LAC and care-leavers.	By March 2014:  Raised awareness of services available and the value of services to LAC/CLs and Carers. Increase number of LAC and CL currently accessing universal services.		Emma Bennett  Assistant Direct  John Welsby	/ Lorna Tull tor accountable	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)		Who	By when		Six month update

Negotiate for a proportion of tickets for council organised events to be ring fenced for looked after children and young people	Lorna Tull	December 2013	
Leisure Pass for LAC and CL to be approved by Leisure Services	Leisure Services Tina Clarke	October 2013	
Establish links with Regeneration and Environment services to explore the availability of alternative support package for Foster Carers and prospective adopters	LAC service Regeneration and Environment	December 2013	
Increase engagement with third sector organisations in relation to Corporate Parenting	LAC service Third Sector Lorna Tull	March 2014	

Outcome (what is to be achieved)	Target and	d timescale		Lead Officer ad	ccountable
Improve outcomes for Looked after Children in Health, Education, Placements and Transitions	By March 2014:  An increase in placement availability and stability.			Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull	
	Improved education attainment for LAC. Improved health outcomes for Lac and CLs. Improved transitions for CLs into independence		Assistant Direct	ctor accountable	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)		Who	By when		Six month update
Promote understanding of looked after children for all school staff through delivering Total Respect Training		Lorna Tull			

Promote and increase opportunities for Looked after Children to engage with Further Education/University  Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	LAC service Anne Foster 01902 556951 Sharon Green 01902553001 Who	January 2014  By when	Six month update
Improved transitions for CLs into independence			
Ensure that LAC apprenticeship's have access to Council to appropriate internal training courses and professional development.	LAC Service Workforce Development	January 2013	
	Sue Davies 01902 554056 Lorna Tull		

## Completed/progressing in timescale

# Not completed in timescale/not on target

## Not started yet – within timescale

Outcome (what is to be achieved)	Target and timescale		Lead Officer accountable	
A Corporate Strategic Commitment	<ul> <li>By March 2012:</li> <li>Raised awareness of Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting responsibilities across authority and partners.</li> <li>To embed Corporate Parenting across the authority and partners.</li> </ul>		Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull  Assistant Director accountable  John Welsby	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when		Six month update
Communication strategy in relation to Corporate Parenting and Looked after Children/Care Leavers to be continued	Communications	March 2013		Corporate Parenting radio advert created and to be rolled out first week of Sept on Free Radio
	Helen Heywood Marketing Manager 01902 555496			On-going internal and external good news stories including use of council facebook and twitter
	Mel Potter- Marketing Comm Officer 01902 552456			

Total Respect training rolled out to CFMT staff, CPP and CPSG	LAC service Workforce Development Sue Davies HOS 01902 554056	September 2012	CPP trained 25 <sup>th</sup> August CPSG trained 6 <sup>th</sup> August Staff from C&F staff x 4 training sessions – approx. 60 staff
Implement Council Policy to offer extended paid and unpaid leave to employees and Members who become approved as Foster Carers or prospective adopters for the Council.	LAC service Human Resources Sue Davies HOS 01902 554056	September 2012	Still awaiting Human Resources to update
Corporate Parenting responsibilities to be included in all new job descriptions for Wolverhampton City Council employees.	Human Resources  Sue Davies HOS 01902 554056	September 2012	This has been agreed for all new Job Descriptions and rolled out across the council
Raise agenda of Corporate Parenting at strategic level	LAC service Emma Bennett 01902 553035	March 2013	Presentations/report given at scrutiny 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept and Directions conference 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Implement and evaluate pilot of Role Model scheme	LAC service Anne Foster 01902 556951	September 2012	Role Model programme being piloted, 5 LAC been linked and accessing programme
Extend membership of Corporate Parenting Strategic group	LAC service CPSG Lorna Tull 01902 553887	September 2012	Following presentation at Direction Conference a number of HOS have expressed an interest in joining the group.
Establish a Corporate Parenting week	LAC service Communications	September 2012	Wolverhampton Corporate Parenting week – 3 – 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept, to include radio campaigns, exhibition in civic, conference etc.

Outcome (what is to be achieved)  Ensure the Positive Active Participation and involvement of all LAC and Care Leavers.	Target and timescale  By March 2013:  Increase access to participation opport for Looked after Children.  Facilitate Looked After Children's acceparticipation opportunities  Ensure Looked after Children are invaled and recruitment & selection of staff.	ess to wider	Lead Officer accountable  Emma Bennett / Jenny Cockcroft  Assistant Director accountable  John Welsby
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when	Six month update
Implement Children in Care Council action plan	LAC service CICC	March 2013	2011-12 action plan met. CICC developed action plan for 2012-13.
Strengthen links with Youth Council and other participation forums	LAC service CICC	September 2012	Agreed that Youth Council and CICC have two annual away days. Chair of both councils to present a report of their work at the other council annually. First away day August 2012
Roll out and evaluate effectiveness of LAC website	LAC service	September 2012	Website ready for consultation with LAC and staff
Implement LILAC action plan / recommendations	CFMT Steve Cox Deputy Head of LAC Service 01902553832	March 2013	Draft report received from LILAC, met 5 out of 7 standards. Action plan to be developed once received final report.
Provision of training for LAC in chairing their own reviews/increasing confidence in meetings	LAC service Safeguarding	March 2013	CICC identified as action in their plan for 2012-13.

Establish consultation forum with parents of Looked after Children	LAC service  Lorna Tull	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14
Develop a programme of intergenerational work for LAC and CLS	LAC service	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to the action plan for 2013/14
Increase Looked after Children's involvement in the recruitment and training of Foster Carers and Adopters	LAC service Fiver Rivers ABC  Daphe Atkinson Fostering Team Manager 01902 553068	March 2013	Recruitment and STF have now returned to our internal resource, the arrangement will be reviewed April 2014. We will explore with CICC how they can be involved in the review and support these initiatives.
Robust links to be developed with the Local Neighbourhood Partnership to ensure LAC and CL's participation in localised decision making.	LAC service Local Neighbourhood partnership  Lorna Tull Steve Cox Deputy Head of LAC Service 01902553832	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14

Outcome (what is to be achieved)	Target and timescale		Lead Office	cer accountable
Improved access to universal services for all LAC and care-leavers.	<ul> <li>services to LAC/CLs and Carers.</li> <li>Increase number of LAC and CL curr universal services.</li> <li>Increase level of support given to WC</li> </ul>	March 2013:  Raised awareness of services available and the value of services to LAC/CLs and Carers.  Increase number of LAC and CL currently accessing universal services.  Emma Bennett / Jenny Cockcroft  Assistant Director accountable John Welsby		Director accountable
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when		Six month update
Increase LAC access of Council delivered services involved with provision of positive activities through targeted work, training opportunities, fun days, advertisement etc	Youth Service Play Service Arts & Museums Library Service Leisure Service	March 2013		Multi-agency training delivered to foster carers, April 2012. Over 150 carers and LAC attended fun day. All LAC 8 years + have library card. Joint project work with art service Adventure playgrounds being accessed as contact venue
Leisure Pass for LAC and CL to be approved by Leisure Trust	Leisure Trust Ian Bosworth Partnership Manager 01902555113	September 2012		This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14
Regeneration and Environment make clear a support package for Foster Carers and prospective adopters	LAC service Regeneration and Environment	September 2012		This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14

Raised awareness of Corporate Parenting responsibility of Wolverhampton Homes	Wolverhampton Homes LAC service	March 2013	Allocation policy amended to allow care leavers to remain in their property Wolverhampton Homes representation now on CPSG Wolverhampton Homes to offer training to Care Leavers on maintain property
Ensure appropriate take up of Two year offer for LAC.	Early Years	March 2013	Promotional material being developed and distributed in Sept 2012
Universal Services working group to explore joint funding opportunities for LAC	Universal services working group	March 2013	Sibling camp & young parents project funded through PAYP Art Service joint funded Same as Me – Simon's Story film
Training for wider workforce on issues relating to LAC/CLs	LAC service	September 2012	Corporate Parenting conference, Sept 2012 Total Respect training
Increase engagement with third sector organisations in relation to Corporate Parenting	LAC service Third Sector	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14

Outcome (what is to be achieved)	Target and timescale		Lead O	fficer accountable	
Improve outcomes for	By March 2012:			Emma Bennett / Jenny Cockcroft  Assistant Director accountable  John Welsby	
Looked after Children in Health, Education, Placements and Transitions	<ul> <li>Improved education attainment for</li> <li>Improved health outcomes for Lac</li> </ul>	ducation attainment for LAC.			
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when		Six month update	
Placement availability and stabili					
Develop Council and Partner contact venues and create links with external organisations for contact activities	LAC service Council wide	September 2012		MAX cards ordered for all LAC aged 4 years and over. Will allow LAC and another child and two carers free access to a variety of venues.  2 cards ordered per team for contact.	
Deliver KEEP programme to internal foster carers	LAC service Daphe Atkinson Fostering Team Manager	March 2013		We have successfully delivered three KEEP training and currently onto our fourth group. All carers have been very enthusiastic and reported more stable placements, The facilitators have reported a decrease in disruption meetings, We have also started KEEP support group which is supported by a psychologist.	

Implement Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care programme	LAC Service Black Country partnership Alison Hinds Team Manager 01902 556180	March 2013	Planned for first MTFC placement in Jan 2012
Develop plan for the provision of fostering RITA post March 2013 and explore further marketing opportunities	LAC service  Daphe Atkinson Team Manager 01902 553068	March 2013	October 2012, LAC Commissioning panel approved plan of mixed economy for assessments. We have now secured a framework arrangement with named providers to deliver 25 form F assessments each year.
To pilot KEEP training for adopters	LAC Service ABC Alison Hinds Team Manager 01902 556180	March 2013	Stakeholders events and awareness sessions in September. Training to be rolled out in Jan 2013.
Review the recruitment and assessment process and resourcing for adopters	LAC Service Commissioning	March 2013	Review now started. To be completed by November 2012. Grant secured and process in place.
Establish and progress a working group to embed recommendations of DfE in relation to adoption	LAC Service Alison Hinds Team Manager 01902 556180	March 2013	First meeting of Working Group took place on 8.8.12. Agreed to be Task and Finish Group, with work completed by Dec 2012.

Embed Merridale Street West during first year of implementation	LAC Service	March 2013	Currently 3 young people in placement, full occupancy planned for end of August
			Steering group established and meeting monthly.
Explore development of satellite 3 bedded unit for younger children	LAC Service Commissioning  Yvonne Nelson Brown Residential Operational Development Manager 01902 550182	March 2013	Offer made for purchase of existing private Children's Home in Wolverhampton. Report to be presented to LAC Commissioning Group in September regarding plans for implementation. A decision has been made not to proceed with another at this stage.
Implement recommendations of Short Break Unit review.	LAC Service Commissioning Yvonne Nelson Brown Residential Operational Development Manager 01902 550182	March 2013	Final Recommendations to be presented to LAC Commissioning Group in September 2012.  Decision of review changed to include the other aspects of Disabled Children's Service and is now being led by commissioning. Completion date May 2013

Improved education attainment for LAC.				
Implement restructure of LACE service following review recommendations	LAC service Emma Bennett Head of LAC Service 01902 553130	September 2012	LACE review completed. Draft report currently being finalised. Consultation with team and schools in September 2012.	
Develop policy between WCC and Schools about processes prior to and following educational disruption	LAC Service Virtual School steering group Anne Foster 01902 556951	January 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14	
Promote opportunities for Looked after Children to engage with Further Education/University	LAC service Anne Foster 01902 556951 Sharon Green 01902553001	January 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14	
Improve links with Designated Teachers and Governors including training, forum and Virtual School steering group	LAC Service Schools Anne Foster 01902 556951	March 2013	Virtual school group established and Head teacher steering group meets termly.  Each school has a LACE link	
Improve quality and timeliness of PEPs	LAC Service Localities Schools Anne Foster 01902 556951 Shashi Sharama 01902 553957 Mike Williams 01902 553025	March 2013	PEPs P&P now approved. New forms to be launched and implemented in September 2012. QA work to begin September 2012. Current PEP Improvement plan in place and monitored via LAC Managers meeting.	

Review LAC/CLs Connexions partnership agreement.	LAC Connexions Rosemary Robbins	January 2013	Completed February 2013
Re-develop policy and procedure and monitor Pupil Premium	LAC Service Anne Foster 01902 556951	January 2013	New policy has been approved. All PPG is distributed by LACE
Ensure that LAC have access to impartial IAG support during sixth form/FE and that progression plans are monitored and supported	Connexions LACE Rosemary Robbins  Anne Foster 01902 556951	March 2013	All LAC in Post 16 have an assigned Personal Advisor. Progress report delayed due to redundancy programme with Connexions will be completed June 2013
Improved health outcomes for La	ac and CLs		
Improve the sexual health behaviours of Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LAC Health Service/ Prevention Co-ordinator Young People's Sexual Health Services/ LAC Service	December 2012	20 drop in surgeries completed by LAC Nurse at Beldray over 6 months with 42 attendees.  Drop In service to continue although room choice needs attention to be more yp friendly and confidential.  LAC pregnancy group meetings continue.
			Joint training delivery from SA

			and LB detailed below.  Pregnancy rate within LAC population remains low.  AC Nurse and teen midwife working with LA Transitions Team to produce guidance for LA on supporting young LAC Mums and Dads to be.
Improve the awareness of sexual health service availability and further develop ease of access to services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LAC Health Service/ Prevention Co-ordinator Young People's Sexual Health Services/ LAC Service	December 2012	CAMHS service bespoke training delivered January 2013. LAC Transitions Team training planned April 2013. No uptake of training offers from LAC 1 and 2.
Ensure that key details of health services' involvement are identifiable on central records of individual Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LAC Service	December 2012	Will be part of carefirst review
Continue to develop systems and services which enable timely and effective health care service delivery to children placed out of city.	LAC Service LAC Health Service CAMHS Commissioning Services Mandy Viggers and Fiona Ellis	On-going Review December 2012	More challenging in 2013 due to commissioning changes

Further strengthen partnership working between local services to support the mental health needs of individual Looked After Children and Care Leavers	CAMHS LAC Health Service LAC Service	December 2012	LAC Nurse continues to deliver tier 1&2 counselling and support to school age LAC population under CAMHS supervision.  The work is proving effective in delivering structured counselling work allowing earlier intervention or prompt escalation to CAMHs as needed.  Joint consultation sessions with CAMHS, LAC Nurse and Social Workers on-going
Explore delivery of Pillars of Parenting for Foster Carers	LAC Service CAMHS Social Inclusion Steve Cox Deputy Head of LAC Service 01902553832	March 2013	Foster carers have received KEEP training which more appropriate to the role.
Explore delivery of a consultation group/sessions for Foster Carers	LAC Service CAMHS Social Inclusion Daphe Atkinson Team Manager 01902 553068	January 2013	Throughout 2012 ,Fostering undertook various consultation groups session with F&F and mainstream foster.

			Our support services Heantun Care now hosts monthly forums for all carers ,and outcome issues from these meeting are fed into a committee steering group.  Outcome reports are then reviewed at Senior Management group mth on a quarterly basis
Produce Annual Health Reports which inform on health matters relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LAC Health Service CAMHS  Mandy Viggers	December 2012	x2 Annual Reports presented to Corporate Parenting Panel September 2012 Next due 09.13
Improved transitions for CLs int	o independence		
Formalise the relationship between recruitment of Foster Carers and Support Lodgings	LAC Service Five Rivers YMCA Daphe Atkinson Team Manager 01902 553068 Sharon Green Team Manager 01902 553001	January 2013	Link now established

Explore the option of a training flat as part of a suite of accommodation for Care Leavers	LAC Service Wolverhampton Homes Sharon Green Team Manager 01902 553001	March 2013	Being considered as part of support accommodation review — review due to be completed end of September.
Council to provide Care Leavers access to appropriate internal training courses	LAC Service Workforce Development  Sue Davies 01902 554056	January 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14
Fully implement 14+ transitions team	LAC Service Sharon Green Team Manager 01902 553001	September 2012	14+ transition team in place
Improve links with Adults social care	LAC Service Adult Social care	March 2013	P&P regarding transition of LAC from Children's to Adults Scoail Care in process of being approved.
Improve numbers of Care Leavers engaged in education, employment and training	LAC Service Connexions	March 2013	41% of care leavers in EET 2 apprentices currently employed by the council EET Improvement Plan in place and monitored via C&FSMT.

Inform and support young peopl	e Connexions	March 2013	Information publications in place
to understand and assume their	LAC service		for young people and carers
responsibilities regarding RPA	Rosemary Robbins		sessions devised for
			professional delivered in April
			2013. Tracking of September
			Offer in place for all LAC