

Wolverhampton City Council

**OPEN DECISION ITEM**

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

Date 26 JUNE 2013

Originating Service Group(s)	<b>DELIVERY/OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	
Contact Officer(s)	<b>KEITH IRELAND</b>	<b>CHARLOTTE JOHNS</b>
Telephone Number(s)	<b>4500</b>	<b>4240</b>
Title	<b><u>CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PARENTING FROM THE DELIVERY DIRECTORATE AND OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE</u></b>	

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be received and noted.

## **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To report on the developments within the Delivery Directorate and the Office of the Chief Executive that impact on Looked After Children.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Delivery Directorate and Office of the Chief Executive work to support the Council in its corporate parenting role.
- 2.2 Delivery and the Office of the Chief Executive aid the development of policies, initiatives, services and budget setting processes which support the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. By ensuring a 'Confident, Capable Council', we support the organisation in delivering the City Strategy, the Corporate Plan including the objective of 'empowering people and communities' and in turn our organisational commitments to Looked After Children.
- 2.3 A breakdown of specific actions and tasks undertaken by the Delivery Directorate and Office of the Chief Executive are listed in appendix A.

## **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. [MT/15062013/Q]

## **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [FD/10062013/F]

## **5 Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 5.1 The improved outcomes the corporate parenting strategy seeks for Looked After Children is in line with our Equal Opportunities policy statement.

## **6 Environmental Implications**

- 6.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

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<b>Service</b>	<b>Specific Tasks/Actions</b>	<b>Accountable Officer/s</b>
Delivery/OCE	The Assistant Director, Finance and the Head of Policy will represent Delivery and the Office of the Chief Executive respectively on the Corporate Parenting Strategy Group. The Communications Team have also assigned a 'Corporate Parenting Champion'.	Mark Taylor Charlotte Johns Helen Heywood
Delivery	A 'Total Respect' training session ran by Looked After Children has been scheduled for the Delivery Directorate Leadership Team in September 2013.	Keith Ireland
HR	The Council has an Apprenticeship Strategy and scheme, and the Council supports vulnerable young people to apply for apprenticeship vacancies. The Council offers support to Looked After Children through pre-apprenticeship work with this group.	Sue Davies
	The Council offers work experience opportunities to Looked After Children as a priority.	Sue Davies
	The Council supports employees who wish to take extended leave in order to participate in foster caring.	Sue Davies
Procurement	Building into contracts that work experience opportunities are available to Looked After Children and Care Leavers where possible.	Pete Oakeshott
Policy Team (Policy & Equalities)	The Policy Team provides data and information, such as census information, that help services to better plan activities that could support Looked After Children. The performance management framework developed and implemented by the team also includes measures and analysis to support the Corporate Parenting agenda. For example, Cabinet (Performance Management) Panel consider on a quarterly basis data and information relating to the number of looked after children.	Charlotte Johns

	The Policy Team supports the Families in Focus Information and Research Officer. Families in Focus is a government programme designed to turn around the lives of 'troubled' families nationally. Locally this initiative is aligned to work with families where there is a higher risk that children may become looked after.	Charlotte Johns
Policy Team (Scrutiny) / Democratic Services	The Scrutiny Board and Panels, in particular the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, consider the implications of their business on Looked After Children.	Charlotte Johns
	The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel includes a co-opted member from the Youth Council, which has a commitment to include at least one Looked After Child.	Charlotte Johns
	In April 2013 conducted a Scrutiny Training session for the Youth Council, which has a commitment to include at least one Looked After Child.	Charlotte Johns
	The annual scrutiny planning session in April 2013, which included representatives from the Youth Council identified a review or inquiry into the costs of Looked After Children services which will take place in 2013-14.	Charlotte Johns
Communications	The Communications Team support corporate parenting through prioritising news stories about Looked after Children which help to breakdown stigma of what a Looked after Child is both in the authority and also with the wider public. A recent example was the news piece on the Achieve Your Dreams event in March 2013, which celebrated the excellent achievements of Looked After Children.	Helen Heywood