

**JOINT EDUCATION & YOUTH AND SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting	Thursday 25 th July, 2019
Report Subject	Corporate Parenting Strategy
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Report Author	Chief Officer Social Services
Type of Report	Statutory

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the collective responsibility of the Council towards looked after children and care leavers. A Corporate Parenting Strategy was developed in 2018 and endorsed in January 2019. It was agreed that a cross-portfolio action plan would be developed to set out how the authority will deliver on the statements outlined in the strategy. A one page summary of the actions we will take in 2019/20 is attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Committee endorse the one page summary of the actions we will take in 2019/20 to deliver the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY
1.01	Flintshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy centres on what is important to children and young people in our care. The Strategy provides a set of statements under the following themes:
1.02	➤ Home To provide looked after children with good quality, stable placements where they feel safe, value and cared for by excellent carers.
1.03	➤ Education and learning Looked after children will have the best possible educational outcomes and have opportunities to fulfil their potential.

1.04	➤ Health and well-being: To improve the health outcomes of looked after children in Flintshire and to provide them with appropriate health care and advice.
1.05	➤ Leisure Supporting and encouraging looked after children to enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activity to fulfil their potential.
1.06	➤ Employment Opportunities We will provide opportunities to help looked after children and care leavers develop the skills and experience to pursue employment.
1.07	We have worked with Flintshire Participation Group 'Young Voices Out Loud' to inform the action we will take to deliver on the Corporate Parenting Statements in 2019/20.
1.08	The action plan also responds to the key issues that looked after children raised as part of the Bright Spots survey which was conducted in 2018. The survey asked children in care about their life, their relationships and their perception of their well-being. This approach ensures an integrated response and avoids the need for a separate 'Bright Spots' action plan.
1.09	A detailed delivery plan will underpin the summary action plan so there is a clear accountability framework for delivering actions within timelines. This will enable the Service to monitor progress and report performance through Children's Services Forum.

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01	Corporate Parenting is a core responsibility of everybody who works for the Local Authority. Delivering the commitments contained within the report are within existing human and financial resources.
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3.00 CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT

3.01	Consultation and engagement has taken place with looked after children through our Participation Group and Senior Managers of Flintshire Social Services.
3.02	The Children's Services Forum will have a specific role in overseeing the Strategy and the delivery of the action plan.

4.00 RISK MANAGEMENT

4.01	There are no specific risks arising from this report and subsequent actions.
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan Summary: 2019/2020

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Neil Ayling Telephone: 01352 702500 E-mail: Neil.J.Ayling@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Care Leaver: Any adult who spent time in care as a child (i.e. under the age of 18). This care would have been approved by the state through a court order or on a voluntary basis. Such care could be in foster care, residential care (mainly children’s homes) or other arrangements outside the immediate or extended family. The care could have been provided directly by the state (mainly through local authority social services departments) or by voluntary or private sector organisations. It also includes a wide range of accommodation. For example, it would include secure units, approved schools, industrial schools and other institutions that have a more punitive element than mainstream foster or residential care.</p> <p>Wellbeing: The following areas embody the notion of wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing • Protection from abuse and neglect • Education, training and recreation • Family and personal relationships • Involvement in the local community • Securing rights and entitlements • Social and economic well-being, including not living in poverty. • Living in suitable accommodation.