

Corporate Parenting Panel

26 February 2021

Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People 2020-2022



Report of Helen Fergusson, Head of Children's Social Care, Durham County Council

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to present the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 years, 2020-22 to the Corporate Parenting Panel for information.

Executive summary

- 2 The Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the statutory obligations and collective responsibilities within County Durham in regard to children and young people who are in the care of the Local Authority.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to note the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 years 2020-2022, for information.

Background

- 4 The Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 years is produced on an annual basis to reflect on the achievements over the previous year, and to set out ambition for our Children Looked After and Care Leavers, and our key priorities for the year ahead. Given the global Coronavirus pandemic, this strategy will cover 2020-2022 to incorporate the impact of Covid 19 on service delivery.
- 5 The development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-22 has been delayed as a result of the demands on staff due to the Covid 19 pandemic. As well as responding to the ever changing situation, a huge amount of work continues within the service which is reflected within the strategy, both in terms of achievements and our plans and priorities moving forward.

Content

- 6 The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-22 provides information on:
 - (a) An introduction to Corporate Parenting
 - (b) Durham County Council's Position Statement
 - (c) Our 'Promise' to Children and Young People
 - (d) Role of the Corporate Parenting Panel
 - (e) Children and Social Work Act Corporate Parenting Principles
 - (f) Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme
 - (g) Sources of information to the Corporate Parenting Panel
 - (h) Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report
 - (i) The strategy then goes on to provide achievements in 2019-20 and priorities for 2020-22 for the following eight themes:
 - (i) Multi agency partnership work and integrated governance
 - (ii) Enabling children and young people to remain at home with their families, where it is safe to do so
 - (iii) Sufficiency of placements and placement stability
 - (iv) Early permanence
 - (v) Local Offer for care leavers

- (vi) Health and wellbeing of our children and young people
- (vii) Employment, Education and Training opportunities
- (viii) Engagement with children and young people

Conclusion

7 A range of work is taking place across County Durham to improve outcomes for our Children Looked After and Care Leavers, and plans are in place to continue to make improvements.

Author

Jayne Watson jayne.watson@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Corporate Parenting Panel's role is to lead on ensuring the corporate parenting responsibilities of the Council are being met in line with the duties under the Children Act 1989.

Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the general duty of the local authority in relation to children looked after by them, to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of these children, ensuring effective, individualised support and access to services.

Finance

Financial implications are noted and considered within the service.

Consultation

No implications

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications

Climate Change

No implications

Human Rights

No implications

Crime and Disorder

No implications

Staffing

Staffing implications are noted and considered within the service.

Accommodation

Accommodation implications are noted and considered within the service.

Risk

No implications

Procurement

No implications

Appendix 2: Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 years, 2020-22

Attached as a separate document.