

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL**

12 OCTOBER 2016

### **Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel**

**Matter for Monitoring**

**Wards Affected:** All

### **Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2015/16**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The terms of reference for the Neath Port Talbot Corporate Parenting Panel provides for an Annual Report to be produced by the Panel to full Council. Members have the opportunity to consider and comment on the information contained within the report and the proposed priorities for the next period. The Annual Report for 2015/16 is included at Appendix 1.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. The Annual Report 2015/16 outlines the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel over the last year and highlights the progress that has been made. It also identifies future work of the Panel and some of the initiatives and actions it will aim to achieve during 2016/17.
3. The work programme for 2015/16 has focussed on the key areas: Improving educational attainment for looked after children, improving accommodation and support services for care leavers, monitoring the number of looked after children involved in the Youth Justice System, aspects of health for looked after children and an all Members Seminar.
4. The improvement of educational attainment for looked after children has been an ongoing project for the Panel and significant progress has been made. The Panel has received information on supporting the education of

adopted children and the looked after child element of the Pupil Deprivation Grant. As this area continues to evolve the Panel will continue to monitor the work and address any areas of concern.

5. Accommodation for care leavers was identified as an area that required significant improvement. The Panel has received a number of reports to ensure that the accommodation and support services provided for children and young people is suitable and appropriate, with an emphasis on young people leaving care. Members were also informed of the arrangements that were being made in order to facilitate the introduction of the 'When I am Ready' arrangements, as part of the Social Services and Well-Being Act (Wales) 2014.
6. The Panel had previously been informed that looked after children were over represented in the Youth Justice System and it was an area that they had identified for continued monitoring. There have been positive developments within Neath Port and the Western Bay Youth Justice Service and Early Intervention Service.
7. The Panel considered information in relation to the Health of looked after children and in particular received reports on: the Looked After Children Health Team and the School Nurse Model.
8. A seminar on Corporate Parenting took place on 22 October 2015 and all Members were invited to attend.
9. Future work of the Panel includes continuing to develop and monitor existing work areas and identifying future priorities to improve the outcomes for looked after children.

## **Background**

10. Looked after children are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society and improving the lives of these children is a national priority. Providing care and support for them is the job of staff employed by the Council, partner agencies, foster carers and Elected Members.
11. The Neath Port Talbot Corporate Parenting Panel was set up in 2013 and is chaired by the Leader of the Council. The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel is to champion the rights of looked after children and

young people to ensure their needs are being met, they are safe and have the best chances in life.

### **Financial Impact**

12. The work that has been developed around looked after children and Children and Young People Services has resulted in a reduction in the number of looked after children. This will have a positive impact with savings projected in the Forward Financial Plan.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

13. The activities of the Panel take into account that age is a protected characteristic and where necessary other protected characteristics are considered, such as race and disability. Where new or changes to policies are commissioned by the Panel equality impact assessments are undertaken as appropriate.

### **Workforce Impacts**

14. The work that has been developed around looked after children and Children and Young People Services has resulted in a positive impact on the workforce with more stability.

### **Legal Impacts**

15. There are a range of statutory legal requirements in regards to looked after children. The Panel helps to support the Council and its partners to discharge them by ensuring there is clear focus and responsibilities there to.

### **Risk Management**

16. The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel is to champion the rights of looked after children. The Council is no longer subject to the serious concerns protocol and the Panel will minimise the risk of losing focus on the needs of looked after children.

## **Consultation**

17. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendation**

18. The report is for monitoring only.

## **Reason for Proposed Decision**

19. Not applicable

## **Implementation of Decision**

20. Not applicable

## **Appendices**

21. Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2015/16

## **Officer Contact**

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