

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 14
25 NOVEMBER 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University.	
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## **DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/2021 AND REVIEW OF WORK IN 2019/20**

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> Director of Law and Governance	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Notes the 2019/2020 year in review and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.</li> <li>II. Determines its priorities, and approves the draft work programme for formal and informal meetings for 2020/21 attached at Appendix 1.</li> <li>III. Notes the Recommendations and Actions Monitoring Report attached at Appendix 4 and considers if further monitoring of these during the 2020/21 municipal year is required.</li> <li>IV. Notes the Terms of Reference for this Committee as set out in Part 3, Delegations Section 2 – Regulatory Committee Functions, 2.4.</li> </ol>	

### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report is presented to the Committee on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance.

### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 To enable the Committee to discuss its objectives and priorities for 2020/21 and to approve the draft work programme for 2020/21 (Appendix 1).

The report also provides the Committee with the opportunity to review its work conducted throughout the municipal year 2019/20. A copy of the actions and recommendation made are attached at Appendix 4.

2.2 This item is being presented to Corporate Parenting Committee under its terms of reference 2.4.4.5): Raise awareness in Peterborough City Council and the wider community by promoting the role of Members as corporate parents and the Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.

2.3 In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee is responsible for agreeing a skeleton work programme annually which will be reviewed at each formal meeting. In reviewing the work programme, the Committee may agree to request reports on particular matters of their own preference or as advised by the lead officer.

2.4 The Work Programme links into all of the Children in Care Pledge Priorities and Care Leavers Charter.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee was established by Council at its meeting on 13 July 2016. The Committee is scheduled to meet six times a year bi-monthly preceded by an agenda setting meeting.

4.2 Three meetings are formal Committee meetings and three informal meetings. The purpose of the informal meetings will be to engage with looked after children, young people and their representatives.

As part of the Committee's programme of works it can also:

- Make formal recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and to Cabinet collectively;
- Formally report any issues to the relevant scrutiny committee, to full Council, or other bodies, such as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.3 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold Corporate Parenting Committee meetings during the early part of the municipal year, as the Council could only consider business that was critical and urgent at the time of lockdown. However, the children's safeguarding arrangements were discussed by Members as part of a series of Joint Scrutiny Committee meetings, held in relation to COVID-19 and the Council's response to the pandemic.

4.4 A work programming session was held on 23 September 2020 with Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee (CPC) and the Children in Care Council representatives at a virtual meeting in order to prioritise the work of the CPC for the municipal year 2020/2021. An additional meeting was held with the Chairman and Group Representatives on 6 October 2020, to finalise the draft work programme.

### 5 **REVIEW OF 2019/20**

5.1 During the year 2019/2020, the Committee considered the following issues:

#### **Information/updates**

- Children in Care Pledge and Care Leaver Charter
- TACT Permanence Service – Briefing Note
- Virtual School Annual Report
- Children In Care SEND Update
- Apprenticeship and Work Opportunities for Care Leavers Update
- Education opportunities for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children
- Children In Care Strategy
- Care Leavers Strategy
- Annual Health report
- Update on health needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children CIC
- Update on services for CIC in care with emotional and mental health difficulties
- Members are asked to note that the meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020, was cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. There were two briefing notes circulated to Members as follows:

- Updates on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, Care Leavers and Settled Status; and
- The performance report of Children placed in care.

**Standing Agenda Items Include:**

- Updates from Foster Carers (formal meetings)
- Children in Care Council (informal meetings)
- You Asked We Did (informal meetings)
- Various Case Studies (informal meetings)
- Corporate Parenting Champion Updates (updates listed below in the report)
- Members Issues

**Monitoring Items Include:**

- Performance reports, Placements of Children in Care and Scorecard
- Health report
- Case Studies (informal meetings)

**Corporate Parenting Committee Champion Briefing Notes:**

- Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Screening for Asylum Seekers
- Effective care planning - Passport to Independence, with a further update in February 2020.
- Education and Skills – Post 16 Report
- Leisure Activities that Help with CiC Mental Difficulties
- Housing arrangements for Care Leavers

5.2 For the information of the Committee, a copy of the progress on actions and recommendations raised during the year are attached at Appendix 4

**6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 N/A

**7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To ensure the Corporate Parenting Committee fulfil the requirements as set out in the terms of reference attached at Appendix 2.

**8. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

8.1 None.

**Legal Implications**

8.2 Continuous improvement and approval of the coming year's Corporate Parenting priorities providing a planned and focussed approach to the work of Corporate Parenting, is in keeping with good governance.

**Equalities Implications**

8.3 None

**8.4 Other Implications**

Setting and agreeing the draft work programme for 2020/21 and reviewing the past year's work

provides an opportunity to ensure that the level of service provided to children in care and care leavers is to the highest standard.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 Minutes of the Council meeting held 13 July 2016.

## **10. APPENDICES**

10.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Work Programme 2020/21  
Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference  
Appendix 3 - Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Pledge  
Appendix 4 - Progress on actions and recommendations made in 2019/2020