

## CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2020

6.00 PM

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### AGENDA

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At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest, in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests or is a "pending notification " that has been disclosed to the Head of Legal Services	
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Members that are not part of the core CPC membership, but hold Corporate Parenting responsibilities, are invited to raise any issues they have with regard to the services provided to Children in Care.

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**15. Date of the Next Meetings**

20 January 2021 - (informal)

17 March 2021 – (formal)

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For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact Karen S Dunleavy in the City Council's Democratic Services team on Peterborough 01733 452233 or by email at [democraticservices@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@peterborough.gov.uk)

**Committee Members:**

Councillors: Ayres, Bashir, Bisby (Chairman), Sandra Bond, C Harper, Haynes, Jones, S Lane, Robinson and Skibsted

Substitutes: Councillors: Andrew Bond, Howard, Howell, Hussain and Yasin

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Karen Dunleavy on telephone 01733 452233 or by email – [karen.dunleavy@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:karen.dunleavy@peterborough.gov.uk)

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
(FORMAL)  
HELD AT 6:30PM, ON  
WEDNESDAY, 20 November 2019  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillor Bisby, (Chairman (Chair), L Coles (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Bashir, S Bond, N Day, Jones, Harper, Haynes, Howard, Robinson and Lane.

**Officers Present:**

Myra O'Farrell, Head of Corporate Parenting  
Deborah Spencer, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children  
Sue King, Head of Service TACT  
Jenny Weeden, Senior Youth Engagement and Participation Officer  
Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead  
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

**Also Present:**

Stephen Greene, Foster Carer Forum representative

**16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayres and Howard.

**17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

**18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**19. FOSTER CARER FORUM UPDATE**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the recent activities and outcomes of the Foster Carer Forum meetings. Members were also advised of the events organised for foster carers and children in care, forthcoming visits from the Virtual School Head to provide advice about Personal Education Plans and the new role of young advocates to support Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider and note the update provided by foster carers.

Stephen Greene, Foster Carer Forum Representative introduced the report and provided an update of the discussions and actions arising from the Foster Carers Forum meetings.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members were advised that social media was being developed to advertise recruitment opportunities to attract new fostering carers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report.

## **20. UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH VOICE COORDINATOR FOR CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the work of the Children in Care Council and the outcome of their discussions at meetings and events organised. Members were advised about recruitment and the Children in Care packs.

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider and note the contents.

The Quality Assurance Lead introduced the item to Members and asked them to note the report and raise any queries with officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The team had identified a number of initiatives to engage children about the Children in Care Council by requesting support through Independent Review Officers and Social Worker Care meetings. In addition, Members were advised that the Children in Care Council website would be reviewed in order to attract more interest from Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- Members were advised that the vacant Youth Voice Coordinator role had been divided between two areas of support one to work with Children in Care and Care Leavers directly and the second to support the wider work.
- Members commented that there could be a disconnect felt by the Children in Care and Care Leavers following the recent staffing changes and offered to provide support to the Quality Assurance team, Safeguarding team and children where appropriate in order to support continuity. Members were advised that there would be an opportunity for them to shadow the safeguarding work and projects undertaken by the teams in order to support Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- Members commented that it was important to ensure that the saying goodbye messages were communicated to Children in Care and Care Leavers so that the changes were not too unsettling for them.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report.

## **21. ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received an Annual report from the Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to the services for Children in Care (CC) and Care Leavers (CL).

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview of the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems were in place to meet the health needs of the Looked after Children population in Peterborough.

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children introduced the report to Members and asked them to note the contents and raise any queries with officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- There had been joint work undertaken with the Health and Social Care services in relation to the format of Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) for Children in Care and Care Leavers. Members were also advised that since the format improvements, the percentage return rate of completed SDQs had increased.
- Work was being undertaken to raise the profile of SDQs through Social Workers and the Head of Virtual Schools to raise the importance of completion.
- Progress had been made with Social Workers on the development of Health Passports for Care Leavers.
- Members were also advised about the progress of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children blood borne virus screening and the additional work that had been undertaken with General Practitioners (GPs) to administer treatments for conditions such as anaemia.
- Members were advised about the work being undertaken with GPs to support Children in Care.
- An action plan was in place to explore the reasons why Foster Carers and Children in Care preferred to visit their GP for health support and advice.
- Members were advised about the data in relation to Tuberculosis (TB), which was awaited from the East of England. Members were also advised that the Sexual Health and TB services were due to inform the health services for Children in Care and Care Leavers of any positive results following screening tests.
- The Corporate Parenting Health Champion thanked the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children for her work with agencies to produce the data around Children in Care and Care Leaver health.
- Members were advised of the further areas of support that the health team could benefit from to enhance their work such as information provision from the social care team about a child in care's health and mother and baby forms to be made available as soon as possible.
- Members were also advised that from a social care position, there were some cases where there had been no health background information for a child coming into care as the birth parents had not engaged with the relevant services.
- An officer had undertaken work on scoring SDQs in relation to Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and the service was collecting, using and sharing that information. In addition, Members were advised that there would be a report produced on the findings at the end of the month and what actions would be required.
- Members commented that it would be helpful to receive an update from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMH) and the looked after child psychologist in relation to mental health wellbeing.
- Members were advised that health information and advice provided in the booklets for Children in Care and Care Leavers had been in use for two and a half years and the team were exploring the use of an electronic version.
- Members were advised that the local offer should be made available on the website for use by Children in Care.

- The funding for the Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) sleep packs attached to the report had been funded by the Cambridgeshire Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT).

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **ACTION AGREED**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report. The Committee also agreed that:

The Democratic Services Officer would contact the Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the looked after children's psychologist to:

1. Invite them to a future meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee to discuss mental health services provided to Children in Care and Care Leavers; and
2. Request a report in relation to the provision of mental health wellbeing services, including the work undertaken to support the stability of placements for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

## **22. FORMAL REPORT IN RELATION TO CHILDREN IN CARE PEER REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to a recent care peer review undertaken by a neighbouring local authority in the eastern region.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview of how the service would implement the actions suggested in order to continue to improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers as a group in Peterborough following the peer review. The action plan also included the activity to date since the peer review, with progress against the action plan and deadlines for completion.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The first action to be concentrated on was in relation to UASC and accommodation, as funding was available to start the work.
- Members were advised of the legislative training undertaken for UASC across the authority and that the area of focus would be to deliver further training staff at a front door level of service.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **ACTION AGREED**

The Corporate Parenting Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that an update would be provided to Members outlining the progress of the peer review actions.

## **23. PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Children in Care and Care Leaver placements.

The purpose of the report was to provide members with an overview in respect of the numbers of children and young people currently being looked after by the Authority and to provide a breakdown of the types of placements in which they were living. The report also provided information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

The Head of Service Corporate Parenting introduced the report and requested Members to note the content and raise any queries they had with lead officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- There would be a review on local placements for Children in Care and Care leavers and there was an interim plan to address the balance.
- Members were advised about the strategy to increase foster carer recruitment especial for children with disabilities and teenage boys.
- There would also be a review of the Authority's adoption target figure in line with national figures in order to ensure that it was realistic. Members were also advised that it was difficult to place boys over the age of five for adoption. The performance dashboard report would be revised to include a figure on Special Guardianship Order in addition to adoption.
- Members were advised that there was a national minimum requirement around accommodation for families offering fostering and adoption. There had also been several other barriers in relation to fostering and adoption, which the Authority was keen to understand to find a solution.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

## **24. HEALTH REPORT**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Health service provision for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview of the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems were in place to meet the health needs of the Looked after Children population in Peterborough.

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children introduced the report and requested Members to note the content and raise any queries, they had with lead officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and raise any queries with the Lead Officers.

## **25. COMMITTEE Meeting Start Times for 2020/2021**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to meeting start times for the municipal year 2020/2021.

The purpose of the report was to request the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider and agree the start time for all formal meetings for the Municipal Year 2020-21. The draft schedule of meetings would be agreed at Full Council on either 22 January or 4 March 2020.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report to Members and asked them to consider and agree the start time for informal and formal meetings.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report.

### **ACTION AGREED**

The Corporate Parenting Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the start time for Corporate Parenting Committee meetings in 2020-2021 would be held as follows:

- Formal – 6:00pm
- Informal – 6:00pm

### **26. MEMBERS ISSUES**

Members that were not part of the core CPP membership, but held corporate parenting responsibilities, were invited raise issues they had with regard to the services provided to Children in Care (CiC).

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** that there were no issues to raise.

### **27. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Committee's Work Programme.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with the Work Programme items scheduled for the municipal year 2019/2020.

The Chairman introduced the report and requested the Committee to note the work programme and suggest any items they wished to be included.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/2020.

### **28. Date of Next Meeting**

The next informal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee was due to be held on:

- Informal - 22 January 2020 at 5:30pm
- Formal - 25 March 2020 at 6:30pm

Chairman  
6:30pm – 8:00 pm

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director, People and Communities, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley, Assistant Director, Children's Services	Tel. 864065

### **FOSTER CARER COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT – OCTOBER 2020**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM: Stephen Greene</b>	<b>Deadline date: N/A</b>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the content of the report; and</li> <li>• Raise any queries they have with the lead officers</li> </ul>	

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

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee as part of a regular update schedule in line with the work programme.

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

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee about the activities of the foster carer committee.

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.2 to receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.

2.3 How does this report link to the Children in care Pledge?

This links to all aspects of the Children in Care Pledge.

#### **3. TIMESCALES**

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

4.1 The Foster Carer Committee met on 9 October 2020, and the following areas of interest were discussed:

4.2

All committee officers stood down and were are happy to be re-elected. There were no other candidates proposed for officer positions. All committee officers were happy to stand for another year as follows:

Chair – Stephen Greene  
Proposed by Mandy Nicholson  
2nd by Jenny Winters

Vice chair – Mandy Nicholson  
Proposed by Jenny Winters  
2nd by Sue Stepney

Secretary – Sue Stepney  
Proposed by Mandy Nicholson  
2nd by Jenny Winters

Treasurer/events organiser appointed - Andrea Hughes

#### 4.3 **Points raised at foster carers committee meeting 9/10/2020:**

##### 4.3.1 Staying put:

Initially when a young person turns 18yrs a staying-put agreement/contract between the young person and their foster carers is delivered by the young person's PA. The agreement is signed by all parties.

Staying-put agreement has been really positive for most young people.

The contract enables the young people to be supported whilst attending university and during the pandemic and has offered them a stable and supported place to reside.

The contract offers the young person security, peace of mind and stability whilst continuing to offer a permanent home as a young adult.

Unfortunately, the staying-put agreement does not offer this same security, peace of mind and stability to the foster carer/rest of household.

Whilst the foster carer is expected to give the young person a minimum of 28 days notice should they wish to terminate the contract, however the young person can and have terminate the contract without notice.

As the young person is now an adult, there is no Financial help for Foster carers for damages incurred.

##### 4.3.2 Foster carers leaving PCC:

Implementing exit interviews.

PCC Carers moving to other authorities or to fostering agencies.

Possibility of setting up a communication/WhatsApp group to link new carers with experienced carers.

##### 4.3.3 Transport:

Carers expressed concerns about communications with the transport department.

Young people sharing transport with unknown young people from other households who are not in their bubble either at home or at school.

Carers have been told that random young people sharing transport is purely down to cost - carers feel that everyone's safety should come before cost.

Transport/taxi's arriving to collect children who have already moved placement - taxi companies were unaware of the changes.

#### 4.3.4 Contact:

Carers are extremely concerned about face-to-face contact between the young people and the Young people's family members.

Carers should not feel pressured into agreeing for their young people to spend time with the wider community especially if they feel that there is a health risk being brought into their household/to their children/family members.

#### 4.3.5 fostering network forum:

Sue Stepney is our representative on the forum and will be attending meetings.

#### 4.3.6 Virtual training:

Positive feedback from carers regarding training courses held on zoom/teams. Carers found the apps easy to navigate and courses enjoyable and informative.

#### 4.3.7 Events:

Unfortunately, due to Covid all of the usual young people and carers events were cancelled. Committee members are at present organising a virtual personal message from Santa to carers/young people via zoom/teams.

#### 4.3.8 Finance:

The extra payment to assist carers with extra costs incurred by having young people at home/online learning and activities/equipment during lockdown was very well received by all carers, as were the recent increase in the cost of living allowances.

The committee received positive feedback and Messages of gratitude.

#### 4.3.9 Mental health:

During lockdown SENCOs/class teachers delivered weekly telephone calls to carers and their young people as well as individual schools offering helpful/supportive website addresses and courses to their pupils households.

FCC believe the city's young people should be thanked/congratulated for their resourcefulness during such a difficult time as we all appreciate the impact the pandemic/lockdown has had on their already different/difficult circumstances.

Also, carers have commented positively on how their households have built/repaid relationships during the lockdown period.

## 5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

## 6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The outcome of the report is that committee will be updated about the foster carer committee activities.

**7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members have a duty to review performance of Children's Social Care.

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 *N/A*

**9. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

9.1 None.

**Legal Implications**

9.2 None

**Equalities Implications**

9.3 *N/A*

9.4 ***Carbon Impact Assessment***

Carbon impact in relation to this report has been considered and there is a neutral impact.

9.5 ***Children in Care Implications***

The work of the Foster Carer Committee relates to children in care and care leavers and therefore has an impact on them.

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 *N/A*

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 *List any appendices to the report.*  
*N/A*

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 5</b>
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Youth Voice Worker of Children in Care Council	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres; Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Marya Ali, Youth Voice Worker Shalina Chandoo, QA Lead	Tel. 01733 863731

## **CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL PARTICIPATION REPORT**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Nicola Curley Assistant Director Children's Services</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Notes the content of the report.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Raise any queries they have with the lead officers.</i></li> </ol>	

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

1.1 This report is submitted to each formal and informal Corporate Parenting Committee.

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

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update from the Children in Care Council and participation services.

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference:

2.4.4.1 To act as advocates for looked after children and care leavers.

2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.

*(a) Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.*

*(b) Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.*

*(c) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.*

*(d) Hold meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the committee of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.*

2.3 *How does this report link to the Children in Care Pledge?*

*This links to the Children in Care Pledge under:*

1. Respect - We will respect you as individuals, with differing wants, needs and beliefs and tailor the service you get to fit you.

5. Listen – We will support you to have a voice in your care plan and make sure you are listened to. We will ensure you know how to make a complaint or compliment about your care. You will have access to advocacy support to do this if wanted.

### 3. TIMESCALES

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

4.1 The Children in Care Council currently has five regular attendees and continues to meet on a monthly basis. Over the last quarter they have been developing their key areas of work, including:

- Successfully launching the Coming into Care packs in early October 2020.
- Planning a project for young people to design greetings cards that staff can use when saying goodbye to the young people they work with.
- Continuing to be consulted by children’s services including Children’s Social Care teams, Commissioning and the Virtual School to improve services for children in care.

4.2 In early October, the Children in Care Council (CiCC) launched the Coming into Care Packs which will be given to all children aged 2 years and over at the point they come into care.

The packs are available for 4 separate age groups between the ages of 2 to 17 years and include useful information and age-appropriate wellbeing items including teddy bears, journals, colouring books and pencils, water bottles and affirmation cards. The packs also include information about coming into care and a ‘get to know you game’ especially designed by the CiCC to help children and young people get to know their carers and the professionals who work with them.

After the launch, the CiCC members said,

*“We wanted to do this project as it was a difficult time when we came into care. We would have liked to have had information available to show us who was there to support us and that we are not alone in the care system. These packs will help the young people entering care feel more relaxed and less scared about the changes in their life.”*

To celebrate their hard work throughout this project, CiCC members enjoyed a dinner and bowling activity.

4.3 ‘Good goodbyes’ was an emerging theme that came out of discussions with the youth club and CiCC during a participation activity earlier in the year where the young people highlighted the importance of staff, social workers in particular, saying goodbye to the young people they work with. For their next project, the Children in Care Council are planning to launch a card design project for children in care, where children and young people’s designs will be used on greetings cards that staff can use to write personal messages to say goodbye to young people.

4.4 The CiCC have received first stage feedback on their contributions towards the Sufficiency Strategy. The Commissioning Team will be sharing the final draft of the document with the CiCC which is expected to be published ahead of Christmas.

The CiCC have also invited the Virtual School to their next meeting to provide feedback on recent changes made to Personal Education Plans following a previous consultation.

- 4.5 The Children in Charge youth club, which sits under the Children in Care Council, continue to meet virtually every fortnight during term time. As well as games, and activities, participation at the youth club has included answering 'thought tree' questions on how the return to school has been and the young people have also provided feedback on the design and contents of the Children in Care Pledge.

Efforts have been made to advertise the youth club during other participation events and through the monthly keeping in touch newsletters. The Participation Team have delivered resource packs to attendees before each youth club so that each child or young person has the materials to fully participate in the youth club activities.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions and the transition to virtual youth club, attendance has dropped as children report preferring a face-to-face youth club where they can meet each other rather than a virtual gathering. The Participation Team will revisit the possibility of resuming face-to-face youth clubs after the current lockdown.

- 4.6 Over the October half term, a programme of face-to-face participation activities were offered to Children in Care in collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council's Participation Team. This consisted of six socially distanced activities including dance, samba drumming, outdoor activities at Grafham Centre and the Raptor Foundation and trampolining. Over 30 children and young people aged between 8 and 17 years attended the various activities, where several participation opportunities were advertised to the young people. These include joining the CiCC, Young Inspectors or youth club, supporting with recruitment of staff, training foster carers and contributing towards the regular keeping in touch newsletters.

The offer to young people placed out of area at a distance was developed through a 'Zoom into Half Term' virtual programme. This consisted of an art workshop and a lyric-writing workshop delivered over Zoom. A total of seven young people registered to these events, and all attendees gave positive feedback and suggested they would like to meet regularly as a group with similar style workshops. Where appropriate, further participation activities were also offered to the young people.

During the half term activities, attendees were invited to participate in a survey on the theme of education, including how it had felt to return to school or college after the lockdown and the support they had received from their social worker, IROs, teachers, carers and other professionals. Feedback from the survey will be shared with Children's Social Care for feedback and action.

- 4.7 All feedback from the CIC Council, Children in Charge youth group, Young Inspectors and any other feedback from young people is collated by the Participation Team and fed back to Children's Social Care via a quarterly feedback loop report. Appropriate actions are set and monitored and regular updates are provided to the Children in Care Council during their monthly meetings. Updates and opportunities are also shared with all young people through the monthly keeping in touch newsletters.

In response to the second lockdown, the Participation Team will be reissuing its virtual offer leaflet via virtual newsletters and email to remind young people, foster carers and Children's Social Care staff of the support and opportunities available.

## 5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 *This report was completed in consultation with members of the Children in Care Council.*

## 6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 *Improved engagement with Children in Care and Care Leavers.*

**7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 N/A

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 *There are no changes required.*

**9. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

9.1 *There are no financial implications.*

**Legal Implications**

9.2 *There are no legal implications, as the report is for information only.*

**Equalities Implications**

9.3 *Participation is an essential service for children in care and care leavers and this report demonstrates the level of participation in various events and activities.*

9.5 *Awaiting sign-off*

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 N/A

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 N/A

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Corporate Director People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University.	
Contact Officer(s):	Myra O'Farrell, Head of Service	Tel. 864391

## **CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS REPORT - 2020 - 2021**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee Chair	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the content of the report, and</li> <li>• Confirms the positions and appointments of Corporate Parenting Champions</li> </ul>	

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

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following the recent Cabinet and Committee changes made at Annual Council on 29 July 2020.

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

2.1 This report will allow the Committee to review the current Corporate Parenting Champions positions and allocations, which is in line with the recent Cabinet and Committee changes made.

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference 2.4.4.6 To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care, with the roles being decided and approved by the Committee at the first formal meeting of the municipal year. Suggested Champion roles are as follows:

- i) Housing, Finance and Benefits - Councillor Sandra Bond
- ii) Education Employment and Training and Access to Higher Education - Councillor Bashir
- iii) Health - Councillor Robinson
- iv) Recreation and Leisure Activities – Vacant
- v) Effective Care Planning - Councillor Jones

2.4 The report addresses all areas of the Children In Care Pledge and the Care Leavers' Charter. It specifically addresses the requirement to deliver effective support to Children In Care by validating and triangulating information to quality assure services.

### 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 In July 2019 the Corporate Parenting Committee Champions for 2019 – 20 were confirmed as:

Champion Role	Councillor
Housing, Finance and Benefits	Cllr Sandra Bond
Education Employment and Training and Access to Higher Education	Cllr Bashir
Health	Cllr Robinson
Recreation and Leisure activities	Cllr Day
Effective Care Planning	Cllr Jones

The Corporate Parenting Champion would be responsible for the following:

- a) Meeting with the Lead Officer
- b) Undertaking a site visit
- c) Meeting with a child in care / young person / service user / other officers and discuss their experience of the service for Children in Care
- d) Contributing to a brief report back to the Committee, jointly between Champion and Lead Officer

#### Key Issues

Following the Annual Council meeting held on 29 July 2020, changes to the positions of Champions were reviewed at the Corporate Parenting Committee informal meeting held on 23 September 2020. Corporate Parenting Committee members were asked if they wished to be considered as a Champion. Following the 23 September informal meeting, Councillor Day gave her resignation as Committee Member and therefore, the Recreation and Leisure Activities has become vacant. The following have expressed an interest:

Champion Role	Councillor
Housing, Finance and Benefits	Cllr Sandra Bond
Education Employment and Training and Access to Higher Education	Cllr Bashir
Health	Cllr Robinson
Recreation and Leisure activities	Vacant
Effective Care Planning	Cllr Jones

The appointment of the Corporate Champions will be confirmed at its first formal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee on 25 November 2020.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members were asked to express an interest in the Champion positions.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 Ensure there is a more robust approach to supporting the experiences of children and young people in order to improve their lives.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The appointment of champions to specific service areas for Children and Young People in care, provides a focussed approach to meeting their requirements.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 N/A

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 N/A

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 N/A

### **Other Implications**

- 9.4 The appointment of Corporate Parenting Champions provides an opportunity to ensure that the level of service provided to Children in care and care leavers is to the highest standard.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 10.1 None

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 N/A

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<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	<b>Corporate Director, People and Communities Wendi Ogle Welbourn</b>	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	<b>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University Councillor Ayres</b>	
Contact Officer(s):	Dee Glover Headteacher Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care	Tel. 07917133152

**A REPORT ON EDUCATION PROVISION DURING LOCKDOWN, ATTAINMENT AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR USACS**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
From: Corporate Director, People and Communities Wendi Ogle Welbourn	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the content of the report</li> <li>• Raise any queries they have with the lead officer</li> </ul>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following a request by members as part of the Committee's work programme.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information requested by the Committee in respect of the education of children and young people in care during the closure of schools during the national lockdown, attainment of 2020 cohort and education provision for UASCs.

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.

2.4.4.6 c Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments

2.3 This links to the Children in Care Pledge under:

1. Respect - We will respect you as individuals, with differing wants, needs and beliefs and tailor the service you get to fit you.

**3. TIMESCALES**

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

Peterborough Virtual School (PVS) sits within the Schools Standards and Effectiveness Team and is accountable to the Director of Education Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The role of the Virtual School is to monitor the education of all children and young people of school age and support and intervene to ensure all have the opportunity to make good progress.

From March 20th, 2020 following the closure of schools and other education settings the service delivery of PVS was adapted to enable continued support of the children and young people in care, social workers, carers and designated staff in schools and other education providers. Our priority was the emotional and educational well-being of the children and young people on our school roll.

##### 4.1 Education Provision during school closures as a result of the national lockdown .

4.1.1 The table below records the number of children and young people accessing education, either full or part time during the school closure period. All children in care were entitled to a school place within the category of vulnerable groups. However, attendance was not compulsory and carers and social workers determined whether a child would attend. Some children went to school during the Easter and half term holidays.

4.1.2 Numbers generally remained consistent with a slight increase in some year groups. Year 11 numbers are low because their academic year effectively ended on 20<sup>th</sup> March when it was announced that schools were to close and that formal assessment by examinations would not take place.

4.1.3 Colleges closed to Year 12 and 13 students but those in school sixth forms had the opportunity to attend.

Year Group	Total number in cohort	Number attending Week 4	%	Number attending Week 13	%
Age 3-4	7	3	42%	5	71%
Reception	13	7	53%	9	69%
Year 1	5	3	60%	4	80%
Year 2	11	2	18%	3	27%
Year 3	11	7	63%	7	64%
Year 4	16	4	25%	4	25%
Year 5	20	10	50%	11	55%
Year 6	17	7	41%	8	47%
Year 7	32	13	40%	15	47%
Year 8	27	7	26%	7	26%
Year 9	22	10	45%	11	50%
Year 10	28	16	57%	16	57%
Year 11	38	5	13%	5	13%
Year 12	59	2	3%	1	2%
Year 13	6	0	0%	0	0%

## 4.2 **School support for children during lockdown.**

4.2.1 The Personal Education Plan (PEP) process was amended during the summer term with the usual meetings suspended except for children new into care or those with a change of school or carer.

Designated teachers were required to complete an altered version explaining what and how work was being provided, how they were keeping in touch and what if any support was required for those not in school. Any issues relating to completion of work or lack of appropriate equipment in the home were also reported. For PVS staff it was business as usual with the quality assurance and sign off of all PEPs giving us access to information and providing opportunity to challenge.

There were different methods of delivery of work for completion at home by schools. Some chose to provide work packs initially, moving to online and virtual lessons as the term progressed.

## 4.3 **PVS support for children and stakeholders during lockdown in addition to business as usual.**

- issued, in conjunction with CVS, immediate and ongoing guidance for foster carers and social workers to support accessing school places for those children requiring the service and eligible within the 'vulnerable' group.
- provided advice and guidance to designated school staff on the bespoke Covid -19 Summer Term Personal Education Plan and process
- established a consultation phone line for all stakeholders with our PVS Specialist Education Psychologist, acknowledging heightened anxiety for some carers, children and colleagues
- continued to provide work and support to those children and young people already identified by the PVS Intervention team to sustain learning momentum
- continued to fund online tuition sessions from an external provider for children and young people living out of city
- held weekly virtual KIT meetings with designated school staff to monitor well-being of those children attending school
- collected and analysed school attendance data
- provided IT equipment to facilitate home working
- offered advice to carers to support learning at home and provided a resource guide to supplement work provided by schools
- challenged schools where their learning offer was not of an acceptable standard
- attended virtual transition PEP meetings for Early Years, Year 6 and 11 pupils and facilitated additional transition opportunities for the more vulnerable
- provided a Year 6 end of primary school pack, including a certificate, book, activities and equipment
- provided a Year 11 end of KS4 acknowledgment letter and signposting booklet

## 4.4 **Attainment 2019- 2020**

### 4.4.1 Year 11

All formal assessment was cancelled for the 2020 Year 11 cohort. Teacher assessments were submitted to finalise a GCSE grade.

30 Year 11 pupils had been in care for at least a year on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

6 pupils gained 5 GCSE Grade 4 - 9 including Maths and English. 20% of the cohort.

This is an improvement on 2019, however a comparison should not be made given the different methods of assessment. There are no national or eastern region comparisons.

### 4.4.2 Year 6 2019/20

Data has been generated using last known formal assessment points: if the child was on track to achieve ARE (age related expectations) at this point, it has been presumed that they would

have achieved ARE. If they were not on track at the last formal assessment point, it has been presumed they would not have achieved ARE.

There are a total of 13 children in this cohort.  
 'Achieved' ARE:

	Maths	Reading	Writing	Combined
<b>Number of Children</b>	3	3	4	3
<b>% of total</b>	23	23	31	23

This is again an improvement on 2019 results but should be read in the context of predictive data.

Further data for other key stages will be included in VSH Annual Report 2019 – 2020 /

#### 4.4.3 **Education opportunities for UASCs 2020-2021 as at 03.11.2020**

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children / Young People are supported to access education as soon as possible upon coming into the care of Peterborough City Council.

Accessing education is prioritised with PEP meetings taking place as soon as care status is confirmed.

Post 16 students are eligible for the vulnerable bursary and applications are supported for them to access this. This provides support for travel, lunches and any resources required for learning. At the end of the last academic year PVS supported Year11 leavers with laptops to access remote learning due to the Covid-19 situation. DfE loan laptops were requested and secured for some Year 12 students whilst others have been provided with a loan laptop by colleges.

Provision 2020-2021

#### 4.5 Peterborough College – 16 students

Year 12

ESOL – 5

Science 1

Year 13

ESOL –10

12 students have laptops.

1 is having issues with connecting through device

3 are waiting for their DfE device

ESOL learners are doing 1 whole and 1 part time day in the week in college. Science learners are doing 1 whole day in a week.

#### Central Bedfordshire College -1 student

Year 13

ESOL =1

In College 3 days a week.

DfE laptop requested.

Northampton College –1 student

Year 13

Level Business, 3 days per week with a day of remote working - 1

Level 1 Carpentry & Joinery & GCSE Maths & English, 4 days per week with 1 day of remote working -1

Waltham Forest College –1 student

Year 13

BTEC L3 National Extended Certificate in IT, GCSE Maths, Functional Skills English – level 1. 4 days in college.

**5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 None

**6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The committee will have an awareness of the educational challenges faced by schools, children and their carers during the pandemic and the statutory role of PVS in support of these challenges. They will be informed of provision for UASCs and have an information on attainment.

**7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Statutory requirement.

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 Not applicable

**9. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

9.1 None

**Legal Implications**

9.2 None

**Equalities Implications**

9.3 None

**Carbon Impact Assessment**

9.4 I have considered the Carbon Impact in respect to the activity described in the report and consider there to be a neutral impact.

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 10.1 None
- 11. **APPENDICES**
- 11.1 None

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn Executive Director People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Myra O’Farrell	Tel. 01733 864 391

**UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE FOR OUR CARE LEAVERS IN RELATION TO IMPACT OF COVID**

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Nicola Curley, Assistant Director</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b>
<p>It is recommended that members of the Corporate Parenting Committee note the attached report and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise any queries with the lead officer and;</li> <li>2. Make any recommendations as they find appropriate</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee. The need for this report was identified as part of the Committee's work schedule for 2020/2021 and is in line with the work programme.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information requested by the Committee in relation to the university experience for our Care Leavers in relation to the impact of Covid and what services have been put in place to mitigate these impacts.

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.

2.5 This report links to **Support** – We will support you in all aspects of your education so you are able to achieve your full potential in the Care Leavers Charter.

**3. TIMESCALES**

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

#### **4.1 THE NUMBER OF CARE LEAVERS CURRENTLY AT UNIVERSITY**

4.1.1 There are currently 23 Care Leavers at universities throughout the country, in various years of their degree and studying a variety of subjects e.g., veterinary science, Law, international tourism, health and social care.

#### **4.2 THE PETERBOROUGH CORE OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS**

4.2.1 The Core Offer for Care Leavers includes the following support for Care Leavers at university.

- Help with making a University and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) application
- Costs of travel to two university open days and three university interviews
- Higher education bursary of £2,250 a year plus and additional £2,000 split over the duration of the course
- Summer accommodation costs equivalent to local housing allowance
- £300 for educational purposes for which there is no other funding
- Funding of first year's accommodation at university

#### **4.3 THE IMPACT OF COVID ON CARE LEAVER ATTENDING UNIVERSITY**

4.3.1 It is evident that Covid and lockdown is having a significant impact on University students across the county, with significant disruption to their studies and the usual student experiences.

4.3.2 The Corporate Parenting Service recognised that Care Leavers are particularly vulnerable as unlike the vast majority of university students who can return to parents, they do not have alternative accommodation available during term time. For those in Staying Put arrangements this was only funded during University holidays. (Staying Put is an arrangement where young people remain with their foster carers following their 18th birthday.)

4.3.3 Care Leavers are also more at risk due to loneliness and lack of support to meet their everyday needs.

#### **4.4 MEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF COVID**

4.4.1 Personal Advisors (PA) have kept in regular contact with Care Leavers who are at University during the Coronavirus pandemic and have been able to respond efficiently and effectively to their resulting needs.

4.4.2 We have provided funding or in kind support for all our students who have found themselves in difficulty due to the challenges of the pandemic.

4.4.3 Additional weeks in their Staying Put arrangements have been funded if they found themselves isolated at university. This continues during this current lockdown. The majority of University care leavers returned to their former foster carers.

4.4.4 For one young person who was unable to find holiday employment over the summer due to Covid a living allowance was paid during the holiday.

### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 *None*

### **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The Core Offer for Care Leavers who wish to study at university will continue for their first degree.

6.2 The current changes to Staying Put arrangements to address the impact of Covid will remain in place and be kept under review.

6.3 Personal Advisors have kept in close contact with their Care Leavers who are at University and report that the young people have coped well during this pandemic.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To mitigate the impact of Covid on Care Leavers who are attending University during this time.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 Not to provide the service would mean not fulfilling statutory requirements in terms of the Core Offer and not fulfilling Corporate Parenting requirement with regard funding Staying Put accommodation during the disruption caused by Covid.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 Financial Implications**

There are financial implications from additional funding required for the extended Staying Put arrangements; these have been met through central government's dedicated COVID fund to local authorities.

### **9.2 Legal Implications**

N/A

### **9.3 Equalities Implications**

The Leaving Care service is ensuring that Care Leavers are not disadvantaged during the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **9.4 Carbon Impact Assessment**

Carbon Implications in respect to this report have been considered and there is a neutral impact.

### **9.5 Implications for Care Leavers**

The support provided enables Care Leavers to continue to attend University and has mitigated the impact of Covid by allowing Care Leavers to return to Staying Put Arrangements to prevent them feeling lonely or isolated or even having to use temporary accommodation during lock down periods.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 Peterborough Covid-19 children and young people's survey:  
How are we doing? Quality Assurance

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None

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<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn Executive Director People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Myra O’Farrell	Tel. 01733 864 391

**UPDATE ON THE LOCAL OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS**

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> Nicola Curley, Assistant Director	<b>Deadline date:</b>
<p>It is recommended that members of the Corporate Parenting Committee note the attached report and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise any queries with the lead officer and;</li> <li>2. Make any recommendations as they find appropriate.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee. The need for this report was identified as part of the Committee's work schedule for 2020/2021 and is in line with the work programme.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information requested by the Committee with regard the Local Offer for Care Leavers and updates on this within the last 6 months. This report considers the impact of Covid and what services have been put in place to mitigate this impact.

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.3 Ensure that the needs of looked after children and care leavers are addressed though key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements.

2.3 This links to all areas of the Children in Care Pledge.

**3. TIMESCALES**

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

## **4.1 BACKGROUND TO THE LOCAL OFFER**

4.1.1 Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a Local Offer for its Care Leavers.

4.1.2 The Local Offer is the support that is available for young people who are leaving or have left the care of Peterborough City Council.

4.1.3 The published Local Offer (online) has been updated as a result of COVID 19 with links to extra resources for mental health support necessitated by the Coronavirus pandemic.

## **4.2 SCOPE OF UPDATE**

4.2.1 This report serves to update the Committee on the Local Offer specifically with regards to two significant changes in the last six months

1. COVID 19
2. Joining up the local offer with Cambridgeshire County Council

## **4.3 ACHIEVEMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE LOCAL OFFER IN RESPONSE TO COVID 19**

4.3.1 The Leaving Care Service has been flexible and responsive to the needs of our Care Leavers over the last 6 months.

### **4.3.2 Increased Contact from Personal Advisors and visits if needed.**

4.3.2.1 The Local Offer states that a Personal Advisor (PA) will make contact a minimum of every 8 weeks. Contact has been significantly increased since the start of the pandemic. Due to risks presented by COVID 19, face to face visits were not routinely undertaken during the period of March to the beginning of July. Virtual visits and telephone calls increased as the alternative method of communication. PAs reported that the young people appreciated these calls and liked that they were often contacted with no purpose other than to see how they were doing. PAs had the time to increase contact as they were not spending time travelling between visits. Having the medium of Microsoft teams was an additional benefit to communication and welcomed by PA's and care leavers as it added a more personal touch.

4.3.2.2 The PAs were able to respond effectively and efficiently to Care Leavers request for support or their identified needs. During lockdown, where visits were necessary to support young people, these still took place using personal protective equipment (PPE). Examples of visits undertaken include, helping a young person to move and supporting a young person with an emergency dental appointment.

4.3.2.3 The Participation Team sent out a fortnightly newsletter to Care Leavers with useful information.

### **4.3.3 Practical Support**

4.3.3.1 If there were problems with bank accounts PAs delivered money to young people where required.

4.3.3.2 Some Care Leavers had worries about being able to get food at the start of the pandemic as supermarket shelves were worryingly empty. PAs were able to quickly distribute foodbank vouchers. The need for foodbank vouchers was a 'one off' for many care leavers but subsequent vouchers have been available for those that have needed them.

4.3.3.3 An extension was agreed to those entitled to clothing allowance in April until shops reopened in July even if they had turned 18 during this time.

#### 4.3.4 **Other Agencies**

- 4.3.4.1 PAs have worked closely with other agencies to deliver the Local Offer, in particular Rights Resolution (a community interest company that supports young people leaving care) have been proactive in their approach to supporting Care Leavers. As soon as they were able, they organised social distancing BBQs and picnics to address social isolation.
- 4.3.4.2 Housing providers also provided support to Care Leavers during lock down e.g., maintaining risk assessed drop-in sessions for Care leavers and translating COVID 19 guidance for Care Leavers where needed.
- 4.3.4.3 Housing providers provided care leavers with face masks using a government funded scheme to support.

#### 4.3.5 **Education**

- 4.3.5.1 Identified Government funds allowed purchase of laptops and WIFI for those attending college to enable young people to continue their studies remotely.

#### 4.3.6 **Accommodation**

- 4.3.6.1 Care Leavers at university were enabled to return to their Staying Put accommodation, if they found themselves isolated or unable to return to university. Usually, this arrangement is only funded during university holiday time.
- 4.3.6.2 Where necessary university bursaries were paid early to prevent financial hardship.
- 4.3.6.3 Accommodation was extended if Covid 19 prevented move on plans happening within timescales.

### 4.4 **CHALLENGES FOR THE LOCAL OFFER DUE TO IMPACT OF COVID 19**

- 4.4.1 Those involved in service delivery are concerned that some very important aspects of the Local Offer are not currently being delivered due to COVID 19 restrictions.
- 4.4.2 Mental health and drug and alcohol support has not been as responsive due to restrictions and increased demand across the population at large.
- 4.4.3 'Drops ins' provide a key element of the support available to Care Leavers in Peterborough. These sessions had to stop at the start of the pandemic and the PA's want to get these up and running as soon as possible. Planning is at an early stage.
- 4.4.4 Two successful drop ins had been running:
- Daily 'drop in' in the town hall, currently shut due to COVID 19, new location needed.
  - Monthly evening 'drop in', on hold due to restriction in numbers who can attend.

### 4.5 **Apprenticeships and Work Experiences**

- 4.5.1 Due to the current situation and the full lock down we had prior in the year, there is limited progress in apprenticeship opportunities or work experience opportunities across the City. This has impacted on the programme to support Care Leavers and Children in Care to move into apprenticeships and work experience.

- 4.5.2 However, the current position with Care Leavers and Children in Care at City College Peterborough is:

Study programmes provisions (which will include work experience) is:

Care Leavers - 3 learners  
Children in Care - 8 Learners

4.5.3 This current cohort of learners are showing 74% attendance, with 100% of the learners being retained to date.

4.5.4 Now education is back delivering an offer to our young people, we will be focusing on restarting apprenticeships and the wider offer, however, the opportunities have reduced and therefore we will work to source new opportunities and alternatives to apprenticeships and link with PCC HR on this.

#### **4.6 ALIGNMENT WITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

4.6.1 Created during initial Covid-19 restrictions, there has been a cross authority work stream set up between Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council Leaving Care services to work on issues relating to Care Leavers, this initially had a pandemic focus, looking to share support initiatives such as grant funding for food support packages or laptops for those unable to access college courses.

4.6.2 This has now evolved to a more general work stream sharing resources and initiatives within the local community to ensure we are working together to maximise our support for Care Leavers in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This combined approach is beneficial due to the geographical nature of our Care Leavers. There are many Cambridgeshire County Council Care Leavers living in Peterborough and many Peterborough City Council Care Leavers living in Cambridgeshire, so it makes sense that any initiatives or support developed with local organisations can support both cohorts.

4.6.3 There is a planned business event to be hosted by both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council Leaving Care and Fostering services "Care Leavers and Fostering 'Bridge the Gap' Event planned, with guest speakers Mark Riddell MBE, Department of Education National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers and Graham Daniels, Director of Cambridge United Football Club, scheduled for April 2021 to appeal to businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support our Fostering and Leaving Care services and ask them to pledge support, whether it be advertising for Fostering recruitment, a developed inclusion policy for Care Leavers in their Employment policy, or sponsoring an initiative through their Corporate Social Responsibility funding.

4.6.4 Many aspects of Peterborough City Councils Local Offer to Care Leavers are similar to Cambridgeshire County Councils Local Offer, but the work stream will have a focus for the next 6-12 months, to look to align the Local Offers further with the overall aim of strengthening both.

4.6.5 Some examples of the differences in Cambridgeshire County Councils Local Offer to Care Leavers that we would look to implement, one example would be a mentoring scheme. Cambridgeshire County Council are currently running a pilot mentoring scheme of 11 mentors sourced from businesses in Cambridge and elected councillors. They have been carefully matched with Care Leavers in Cambridge city and are working with them on their aspirations towards Education, Employment and Training and also their personal goals. This is based on the approach of "you can't be what you can't see", trying to ensure we have more positive role models in our young people's lives who may have a very limited support network or are at risk of not achieving their potential.

4.6.6 We have highlighted from this pilot that one of the main strengths is the voluntary nature and for many of our young people, it is the first time they have developed a relationship with a professional who is not being paid to do it. Also many of our mentors have had very successful careers and have a great understanding of the private sector and links within it to benefit our young people.

4.6.7 Another example is the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Cambridgeshire County Council have

developed links with Cambridge Rugby Union Football Club (CRUFC) Foundation Trust who have agreed to sponsor a Duke of Edinburgh scheme for Cambridgeshire Care Leavers and pay for all associated costs. This is a great example of developing 'Corporate Aunts and Uncles' to help our young people with employability and confidence building exercise that are outside of our statutory responsibilities. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme has many benefits for our young people with accreditation, confidence building, team building skills and a focus on personal aspirations. We would look to approach organisations for a similar initiative in partnership to ensure it could apply to both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council Care Leavers.

## **4.7 KICKSTART SCHEME**

- 4.7.1 The Government has created an employment package called the Kickstart Scheme to provide funding to employers to create job placements for 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit. This will cover 100% of salaries for 25 hours a week, for a 6 month placement, for young people identified as at risk of long term unemployed. It has been specified that these should be accompanied by suitable training offered by the employer, to ensure this offers young people employability skills. We have identified that this scheme is very beneficial for our Care experienced young people, for whom a full time position may be overwhelming, or may need a 'stepping stone' to the working world. We have taken a combined approach between Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to ensure that as Corporate Parents we are taking advantage of this opportunity and prioritising our young people in these roles.
- 4.7.2 We would like to ensure that we remove as many obstacles as possible for our care experienced young people and support them into these roles. We are working with HR to implement our proposals which are as follows but not confirmed yet.
- 4.7.3
- A. All services across CCC and PCC encouraged to create new opportunities using Kickstart Scheme funding.
  - B. Care experienced young people encouraged to apply and supported through a reduced application form and the removal of an interview, replaced with an informal 'Come and See Us' appointment.
  - C. Successful Care experienced applicants to undertake Workplace Rights training, supplemented with involvement in recruitment panels to give interview experience, followed by more specific role based training sessions.
  - D. Unsuccessful applicants to be given thorough feedback.
  - E. Successful Care experienced applicants to be offered the chance to have a 'Work Buddy', volunteer from the Local Authority, with the match being led by the young person. Work Buddies to get a basic overview of Care Leavers before being matched, but to largely interact with them as they would interact with their peers.
  - F. All services taking part to be encouraged to look to make the role into an Apprenticeship or full-time role to ensure there is continuation and not an abrupt ending.
- 4.7.4 This is still in development and both Corporate Parenting Services of CCC and PCC are working closely with HR to focus on this. We are currently looking to run 30 placements across both Local Authorities throughout 2021 and hope Care Leavers are prioritised. We would look to supplement this with training at the start and end of the placement with regards to workplace rights and responsibilities and job hunting and during the placement their training would relate to their job role.
- 4.7.5 We are supplementing this by carrying out an 'Aspirational Audit', to identify our young people's employment aspirations, and match it with location, to give us a map of where we can offer the most suitable opportunities to try to ensure that the placements we offer are relevant for our young people and we are also looking to encourage other employers to prioritise our Care Leavers in their Kickstart Schemes.
- 4.7.6 We have identified two risks with this, the first would be that after these placements there is no progression into Apprenticeships or Full Time employment opportunities in the Council.

We would urge that all services taking part in this, to think about a planned progression for the young people on Kickstart placements.

- 4.7.7 Secondly due to many of our Care Leavers unconventional accommodation circumstances, they can struggle to financially support themselves on lower incomes whilst paying for their accommodation. There is a gap in support from Universal Credit to an aspirational role that upskills or improves their employability such as Apprenticeships or Internships. This is a national issue, but many of our young people may find that they cannot sustain the Kickstart wage whilst paying their accommodation costs.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation with the Children in Council as part of the work stream to produce a seamless Care Leaver Offer across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 The anticipated outcome of the report focuses on the closer working between the combined authorities, maximising finite resources.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The purpose of the report is to update the committee on the work undertaken during COVID 19 to deliver services, and the learning from this as a result.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Not to provide the service would mean not fulfilling statutory requirements.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There may be limited financial implications of a joint Care Leaver Offer with Cambridgeshire in some areas, but this will be scoped in more detail as work progresses.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 Not to provide the service would mean not fulfilling statutory requirements.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 To ensure care leavers have the same opportunities as their peers.

### **9.4 Carbon Impact Assessment**

The plan to combine resources and services across PCC and CCC for care leavers will over time support a neutral impact on the consumption of energy.

### **9.5 Implications for Care Leavers**

This report considers implications for Care Leavers.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 10.1 N/A

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 [https://fis.peterborough.gov.uk/kb5/peterborough/directory/lo\\_youth\\_tiles.page?id=my4c4rcTeYS](https://fis.peterborough.gov.uk/kb5/peterborough/directory/lo_youth_tiles.page?id=my4c4rcTeYS)

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<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b> (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Corporate Parenting Committee Chairman	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley Assistant Director Children's Services	Tel. 864065

**REPORT ON WORK OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE FOR THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee Chairman	<b>Deadline date:</b> Date to be confirmed
It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agrees that the annual report is an accurate reflection of the work of the Committee over the last 12 months; and</li> <li>2. Agrees to submit the annual report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for noting as per the Corporate Parenting Committee's Terms of Reference.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following Children and Education Scrutiny Committee requiring an annual report on the role of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee of activity carried out by the Corporate Parenting Committee in the municipal year 2019-2020

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under all its Terms of Reference number 2.4.6.4 The Corporate Parenting Committee will report to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and to the Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis or more frequently if required.

2.3 The report addresses all areas of the Children in Care pledge and the Care Leavers' Charter. It specifically demonstrates to Scrutiny how the Committee has been addressing the increase in the Children in Care population; the changes to the partnership with TACT; and Children in Care and Care Leavers' education and training needs.

### 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 Following the changes engendered by the Ofsted Inspection of 2018, the Corporate Parenting Committee has continued to work to support the needs and ambitions of the Council's Children in Care and Care Leavers.

4.1.1 The meeting format has continued to work well, especially at engaging our young people, and in depth discussion of issues relevant to our Children in Care and Care Leavers.

#### 4.2 Work Programme and Reporting Mechanisms

4.2.1 The thematic meetings have continued, where a single topic is considered in depth to enable councillors to fully understand the complexity of the issue in the round, have a proper opportunity to scrutinise the information before them and challenge officers in a timely and thorough manner. The Committee focuses on three key areas for children and young people: education; placement; and health. These are linked across the formal and informal meetings, and have been effective in developing ideas and themes for Members to scrutinise.

4.2.2 The final area of development related to bespoke reporting mechanisms for the Corporate Parenting Committee. QlikSense is now the standard reporting tool across Children's Services, and it is possible to monitor all current activity very effectively. The development of a static report (Dashboard) is now in place with feedback from the pilot that Council Members prefer this format.

#### 4.3 Corporate Parenting Champions

4.3.1 This has continued to be an effective use of Member influence. Champions are Members who sit on the Committee, but have also volunteered to take a particular lead for an area that impacts on Children in Care and Care Leavers.

4.3.2 The Corporate Parenting Champions 2019–2020 have been:

Area of Focus	Champion	Officer Lead
Housing	Councillor Sandra Bond	Sean Evans/Emma Kavanagh
Education, Employment and Training and Access to Higher Education	Councillor Bashir	Pat Carrington
Health	Councillor Robinson	Deborah Spencer
Recreation and Leisure Activities	Councillor Day	Jodie Chambers
Finance and Benefits	Councillor Bond	Emma Kavanagh
Effective Care Planning	Councillor Jones	Emma Kavanagh

4.3.3 In between each informal Committee the Corporate Parenting Champion has been responsible for the following:

- a) Meeting with the Lead Officer;
- b) Undertaking a site visit ;( Virtual where required)
- c) Meeting with a child in care / young person / service user / other officers and discuss their experience of the service for Children in Care; and
- d) Contributing to a brief report back to the Committee.

4.3.4 A new Champion role was created at the suggestion of Councillor Jones, out of discussion around the availability of suitable placements for our children. This is the Effective Care Planning Champion, and Councillor Jones is working closely alongside the team manager for the Leaving Care team focusing on particularly 16-18 year olds and preparation for adulthood. Additionally, Councillor Jones has been supporting the pilot introduction of an evidence based approach to support that preparation, this is called the passport to independence.

4.3.5 Councillor Bond is developing her role in the area of Housing for Children in Care and Care Leavers by discussions and meetings to learn about the range of suitable accommodation that is offered to them from the looked after service.

4.3.6 During the 2018-2019 round of work Councillor Ayres, in her role as Employment and Training Opportunities Champion, has been extremely persistent in raising the needs of our Care Leavers at every meeting in this area. The Committee has continued to be supportive of the development of apprenticeship proposals for Care Leavers, and we are really pleased to report that two Care Leavers have now taken up apprenticeships with our partners, TACT and Serco.

#### 4.4 **Specific Focus of Work**

##### 4.4.1 **CIC Population**

4.4.2 Over the last year, we have seen numbers of children and young people in care stabilise in Peterborough. At the end of January, this was 375 children altogether. Comparative data for the financial year 2018/2019 on Children in Care nationally was published in the autumn of 2019. This data evidences that Peterborough's numbers were lower across the Eastern region and nationally. This evidences that the Family Safeguarding Model has been embedded in practice and is effective in the right children coming into care for the least period needed.

4.4.3 2018-2019 saw Peterborough's stability of placements being the best in the Eastern region and being the second best nationally. This means that for those children who remain in care have the opportunities to remain in the same placement for over 2.5 years.

##### 4.5 **Peer Review July 2019**

4.5.1 Children in Care and Care Leavers had a focused Peer Review in the summer of 2019, they focused on a number of key areas such as transfer of cases into the service, our unaccompanied asylum seekers and effective care planning.  
In all three areas they were particularly impressed with practice, verbally sharing with us that they felt children received a good to outstanding service from their social workers.

4.5.2 The Peer Reviewers were particularly impressed with the Corporate Parenting Committee and how it was structured with the emphasis for council members to consider Children In Care within all planning and council activity.  
They equally were impressed with the approach Children in Care were taking with regard to unaccompanied asylum seeking young people who had exhausted all their rights to remain as they felt Peterborough was forward thinking in its practice.

4.5.3 From the Peer Review there was an action plan developed focusing on areas that we and they agreed needed further focus and work, the service has since then focused on those areas to promote an even more consistent approach to service delivery.

##### 4.6 **TACT Partnership**

4.6.1 TACT exercised the right to serve notice of their intention to cease operation of the Permanency Service in the spring of 2019. The service subsequently transferred back to the local authority as of the end of October 2019, with staff and foster carers all coming back to the local authority. This change was initially reported to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in September 2019, with a further update provided to the same Scrutiny Committee in March 2020.

- 4.6.2 The focus on its return has been to reassure Foster Carers and staff and to induct them back as well as begin the process of restructuring and developing a recruitment strategy.

### **Meeting Educational Needs**

- 4.7 The work to raise awareness of the need to be aspirational for children and young people in care continues. The Virtual School has prioritised with Designated Teachers the need to not only seek the views of children but also to ensure that any ambitions are supported by carers and social workers. The Virtual School contributes to the foster carer training programme and the need to be aspirational is emphasised. The Children in Care Council members have contributed to the consultation around their section of the Personal Education Plan (PEP) and this is in the process of being changed to reflect their views. Other developments within the PEP will improve the quality of termly attainment data collection to ensure education providers are accountable and allow for appropriate interventions from the Virtual School specialist staff.

- 4.7.1 As also identified by Ofsted, there has been a general recognition of a lack of some aspiration for the children and young people of Peterborough in educational terms. This has also translated itself into the ambition we have for our children and young people in care, and the Corporate Parenting Committee has challenged itself and officers to think more creatively about achievement for our children and young people in this area. The Virtual School has been asked to report in a more timely way about young people's academic results, as well as providing their formal validated report, and there is an ongoing project to enhance the function and meaningfulness of Personal Education Plans. The work on apprenticeships is already bearing fruit, as stated above.

- 4.7.2 The placement of children out of city continues to present a level of challenge in respect of securing appropriate and good education provision. To alleviate this there is consultation between social workers, the Access to Resources team and the Virtual School which ensures that children are not placed in local authorities where there are barriers to school admission. The placement of those Children in Care who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and require specialist provision is particularly difficult but is being addressed with the Peterborough SEN team and more widely with the National Association of Virtual School Heads.

- 4.7.3 The Committee also identified a growing trend where Children in Care's educational progress was being negatively impacted by their placement outside of the local area. To meet children's emotional or physical needs, sometimes placements can only be sourced outside of Peterborough, or because of the lack of placement choice, we are forced to identify foster placements across Local Authority borders. This means that another Authority becomes responsible for meeting the child's educational needs, and this can become more challenging if the local school is an Academy with its own admission criteria. Children in Care with Education, Health and Social Care Plans (EHCPs) are an even more specific minority, and identifying a school place after a placement move can take months in some cases.

### **4.8 Best Practice Example**

- 4.8.1 The Peer Review reaffirmed the Corporate Parenting Committee Model of best practice is still fit for purpose and is innovative in its approach to including young people having council members as champions and linking strategy with operational issues.

### **4.9 Links to the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers' Drop In**

- 4.9.2 The Children in Care Council continues to meet on a monthly basis, and has 8 regular members. The group is well attended during school holiday periods when activities are offered in addition to the normal meeting. In the last 12 months, along with their co-chairing duties at the informal Corporate Parenting Committee meetings, the group has:

- Young Inspectors have been introduced who are taking an active role in reviewing aspects of service delivery that they use. They have produced a report with an action plan on their activity.
- Given feedback to the IROs on their review paperwork.
- Planned and delivered the annual celebration events for children in care.
- Spoken at Corporate Parenting Committee about their experiences in different placements.
- They co-chair the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee.

4.9.2 The 'Children in Charge' youth group for children aged between 8 and 12 continues to meet in alternating weeks. It is regularly attended by an average of 10 young people.

4.9.3 The Care Leavers' drop in continues to operate, attracting an average of 6 young people at each session. They have been consulted on the new "passport to independence" piece of work which evidenced they are ready to live on their own, this has successfully been trialed and implemented.

4.9.4 A second year of full activity programme was offered to children and young people in the summer encompassing a variety of activities and events curated by Children in Care Council members for young people to increase reach and engagement with this group. Young people and their carers have consistently reported back how much they value this because they feel that they are part of a community.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The Children in Care Council has been fully aware and consulted upon the changes referred to in this paper. The feedback from them to date is that working with the Committee is a very positive experience, and that they value the opportunity to work with the Corporate Parenting Champions.

5.2 The report has been shared with Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children Services in line with the Corporate Parenting Committee Terms of Reference.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 If the Corporate Parenting Committee agrees the recommendations in this report, it will be presented to the next Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year 2020/2021.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 For presentation at Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 Financial Implications**

None.

### **9.2 Legal Implications**

None.

### 9.3 **Other Implications**

This report provides information on the role of the Corporate Parenting Committee and relates to services provided to children in care and care leavers. This ensures that Scrutiny Committee are aware of changes to processes and the outcome for children in care and care leavers.

### 9.4 **Carbon Impact Assessment**

The report includes the objective of reducing the reliance on out of area placements for children, increasing the range of placements more locally as its contribution to carbon off setting.

## 10. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 N/A

## 11. **APPENDICES**

11.1 None

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 11</b>
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Corporate Director People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Marie Saunders – Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Tel. 07730613958

## **ANNUAL REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) REPORT**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Alison Bennett – Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<p>1. It is recommended that the members of the Corporate Parenting Committee note the attached report and raise any queries with the lead officers.</p>	

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

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee by The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Department, Peterborough City Council (PCC) in line with annual requirements.

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

- 2.1 a) The purpose of this report is to provide statutory review and analysis of the Independent Reviewing Service.  
b) The report shall be presented to Members of The Corporate Parenting Committee as requested on 25 November 2020 for their work programme.
- 2.2 This report is for The Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
- 2.3 *How does this report link to the Corporate Priorities?*  
This links to all areas of the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter.
- 2.4 *How does this report link to the Children in care Pledge?*  
As above

### 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. **Executive Summary**

### 4.1 **Introduction**

This Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the IRO Services in Peterborough as required by statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The appointment of IROs is a legal requirement as set out in para 4.3 below

In March 2010, the government issued the 'Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Statutory

Guidance.' They also published the: 'IRO Handbook, Statutory guidance for IROs and Local Authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review of looked after children.'

### 4.2 **Purpose of Report**

The IRO Service sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit with its core functions consisting of reviewing plans for children in care and monitoring the Local Authority in respect of its corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities. Independent Chairs in Peterborough operate a dual role and undertake both the role of the Independent Chair Person for child protection conferences (CPC) and Looked after Children responsibilities. For the purpose of this report we will refer to the Independent Chair as the IRO.

In respect of this report, the IRO Handbook states: 'The manager should be responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee. This report should identify good practice but should also highlight issues for further development, including where urgent action is needed.' (IRO Handbook 2010, page 48, paragraph 7.11).

Members of the Formal Corporate Parenting Committee are invited to view, consider and comment on the content of the report.

### 4.3 **Legal Context**

The appointment of an IRO for every looked after child is a statutory requirement of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Review of Children's Cases Regulations 2004, the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.

Every child who is looked after by Peterborough City Council must have a Care Plan, which details the long-term plan for the child's upbringing, and the arrangements made to meet the child's day-to-day needs. All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to regularly review that Care Plan within legislative timescales (Care Planning and Case Review Regulations 2010).

It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to develop Care Plans and provide care that gives children in care positive life experiences and the best short and long-term life opportunities. The Children Act 1989 [amended 2004] and the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010, set out the duty of the Local Authority to appoint an IRO when a child first becomes looked after.

The IRO should ensure that the Local Authority gives due consideration to any views expressed by the child and the IRO has a responsibility to monitor the Local Authority's performance of its functions in relation to the child's case. Statutory guidance and regulation clearly defines circumstances when the Local Authority should consult with the IRO; for example, proposed

change of placement, change of education plan, or serious incident. The actions that the IRO must take if it is felt that the Local Authority is failing to comply with the regulations, statutory guidance and/or is breaching their duty to the child are also clear.

#### 4.4 **Key Highlights of this Report**

- The number of children in care rose slightly from 370 at the end of March 2019 to 373 at the end of March 2020.
- A total of 1046 Child in Care Reviews were held this year
- Timeliness of Reviews continues to be excellent at 99.3%
- The IRO's Escalation process has been further developed to improve analysis of key themes to address with Children's Social Care
- The report concludes with the highlights of the IRO Service for 2019 – 20 and outlines areas for further development for 2020-21.

### 5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 Parents, carers and children were consulted as part of the review process.

5.2

Further consultation with Health colleagues in order to agree a plan to move forward in terms of maximising outcomes for children.

### 6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 To ensure there is a more robust approach to supporting the experiences of children and young people in order to improve their lives.

### 7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Statutory requirement

### 8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

### 9. **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Financial Implications**

9.1 None

#### **Legal Implications**

9.2 No direct implications, as the report provides factual information about a statutory role.

#### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 None

#### ***Other Relevant Implications***

9.4 Child Care Reviews are held for all children in care.

The purpose of the Child in Care Review is to bring together the child, parents, carers and other professionals to plan for the child and review the Care Plan. This ensures that everything that

needs to be done to enable children to achieve the best outcomes and not drift in the care system is identified and being undertaken.

9.5 **Carbon Impact**

I have considered the Carbon Implications in respect to the Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report and consider there to be a neutral impact.

10. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 None

11. **APPENDICES**

11.1 IRO ANNUAL REPORT

# **Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit**

## **Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report**

**2019/20**

Author: Marie Saunders  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Peterborough City Council

## **Executive Summary**

This Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence in relation to the IRO service in Peterborough as required by Statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The key highlights of this report are:

- The number of children in care rose slightly from 370 at the end of March 2019 to 373 at the end of March 2020.
- A total of 1046 Child in Care Reviews were held this year
- Timeliness of Reviews continues to be excellent at 99.3%
- The IRO's Escalation process has been further developed to improve analysis of key themes to address with Children's Social Care

The report concludes with the highlights of the IRO Service for 2019 – 20 and outlines areas for further development for 2020-21.

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the IRO Services in Peterborough as required by statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.
- 1.2 The appointment of an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is a legal requirement under Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. In March 2010, the government issued the 'Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Statutory Guidance.' They also published the: 'IRO Handbook, Statutory guidance for IROs and Local Authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review of looked after children.'
- 1.3 In respect of this report, the IRO Handbook states: 'The manager should be responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the corporate parenting panel. This report should identify good practice but should also highlight issues for further development, including where urgent action is needed.' (IRO Handbook 2010, page 48, paragraph 7.11).

## **2. Legal Context**

- 2.1 The appointment of an IRO for every looked after child is a statutory requirement of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Review of Children's Cases Regulations 2004, the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.
- 2.2 The IRO Service sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit with its core functions consisting of reviewing plans for children in care and monitoring the Local Authority in respect of its corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities. Independent Chairs in Peterborough operate a dual role and undertake both the role of the Independent Chair Person for child protection conferences (CPC) and Looked after Children responsibilities. For the purpose of this report we will refer to the Independent Chair as the IRO.
- 2.3 Every child who is looked after by Peterborough City Council must have a Care Plan, which details the long-term plan for the child's upbringing, and the arrangements made to meet the child's day-to-day needs. All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to regularly review that Care Plan within legislative timescales (Care Planning and Case Review Regulations 2010).
- 2.4 It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to develop Care Plans and provide care that gives children in care positive life experiences and the best short and long-term life opportunities. The Children Act 1989 [amended 2004] and the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010, set out the duty of the Local Authority to appoint an IRO when a child first becomes looked after.

- 2.5 The IRO should ensure that the Local Authority gives due consideration to any views expressed by the child and the IRO has a responsibility to monitor the Local Authority's performance of its functions in relation to the child's case. Statutory guidance and regulation clearly defines circumstances when the Local Authority should consult with the IRO; for example, proposed change of placement, change of education plan, or serious incident. The actions that the IRO must take if it is felt that the Local Authority is failing to comply with the regulations, statutory guidance and/or is breaching their duty to the child are also clear.
- 2.6 Every Local Authority is required to have a dispute resolution procedure that reflects the process for effectively resolving areas of disagreement raised by the IRO in respect of care planning. This includes access to independent legal advice for the IRO and referral to the Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass).

### **3. Structures and Management of the Team**

- 3.1 The team sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit, and is accountable to the Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. There are two Deputy Safeguarding Leads within the service who are responsible for the team of Independent Chairs who are all permanent staff. The Deputy Safeguarding Leads line manage the Independent Chairs and will be referred to as Managers throughout this report.
- 3.2 All IROs are qualified social workers with the required knowledge and experience to fulfil the requirements of the role.

### **4. Supervision and Quality Assurance**

- 4.1 IROs receive monthly supervision and have access to informal supervision as and when needed. Managers remain committed to ensuring the level of supervision and support to IRO is effective, supportive and of a high standard.
- 4.2 The IROs attend team meetings twice a month. The meetings alternate between Practice Meetings and Business Meetings. Focus within business meetings is placed upon emerging legislative/ organisational changes and issues, and implementing processes which impact on the service; current themes and expectations and organisational agenda. The practice meetings give the IROs opportunities to identify, analyse and discuss practice issues, present research and professional information, give feedback from individual meetings with partners and social workers, identify areas of learning and development and define and support the implementation of good practice. Partner agencies and organisations such as Cafcass, NYAS and the Lead for UASC in the eastern region are regularly invited as well as others.

## 5. Workload Demand

- 5.1 The IRO Handbook recommends that a caseload of 50-70 children in care for a full time equivalent IRO is appropriate. This means the IRO is able to fulfil all of their statutory functions to the best of their ability; thus providing a high quality service for all children in care. During 2019-2020 the average caseload per FTE IRO was consistently between 60 and 67 cases.
- 5.2 Effective business support staff use established systems to support the IROs, this does not include the typing of minutes, which the IROs complete themselves. All IROs ensure that they distribute the decisions from Children in Care (CIC) review meetings to the responsible Team Manager within five working days of the review; this is in accordance with the IRO Handbook and enables the responsible manager to identify any areas of disagreement, and use the provision for challenging the decisions of the meeting in accordance with the IRO Handbook.
- 5.3 The IROs monitor the performance of the Local Authority, the progress of the plan and any decisions made at the review between reviews. This will include oversight of initial health assessments and other general health check-ups; missing episodes and other key issues, so as to mitigate risk of drift and promote timely and optimum outcomes for children.
- 5.4 The IRO will also aim to complete a young person's care plan audit bi-monthly. This is completed in conjunction with the young person and the findings sent to the Quality Assurance Team looking at themes and areas for improvement.

## 6. Quantitative Data up to 31 March 2020

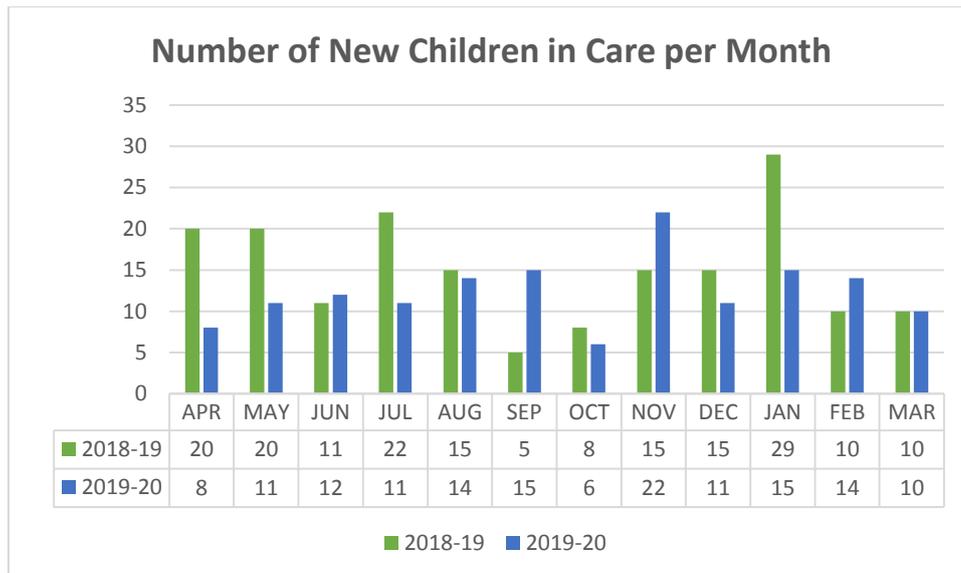
- 6.1 The table below details the *total* number of children in care per 10,000 in the last three years for PCC.

Year	PCC Result
2017-18	74.0
2018-19	72.0
2019-20	73.0

- 6.2 Peterborough City Council's rate per 10,000 children in care for 2019-20 was 73.0, which is slightly higher in comparison with last year but relatively consistent with the last two years. There were 373 children in care during 2019-20.
- 6.3 The table below details the number of *new* children in care in the last three years for PCC.

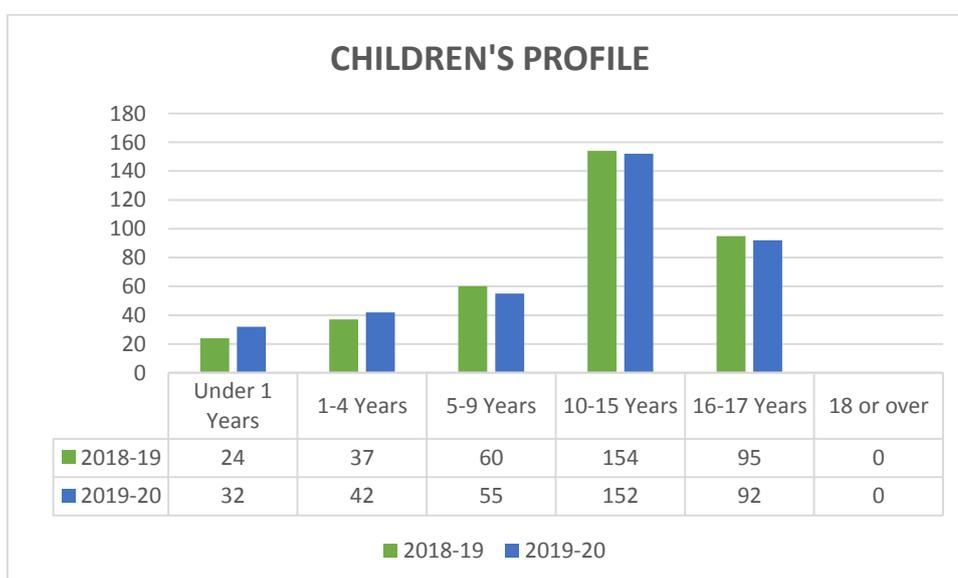
Year	PCC Result
2017-18	35.0
2018-19	34.0
2019-20	30.0

- 6.4 Peterborough City Council's rate of *new* children in care for 2019-20 was 30.0 per 10,000 children; which is significantly lower than the previous two years.
- 6.5 There were 153 new children in care during 2019-20. It could be assumed that the Family Safeguarding model, implemented in 2017, is responsible for the decrease over the period.
- 6.6 The graph below shows the number of new children in care per month:



## 7. Children's Profiles

- 7.1 The graph below shows the age of children in care covering 2019-20 in comparison to 2018-19. There was a total of 373 children in care in 2019-20 of which 223 were male and 150 female compared to 370 in 2018-19 where 216 were male and 154 were female.



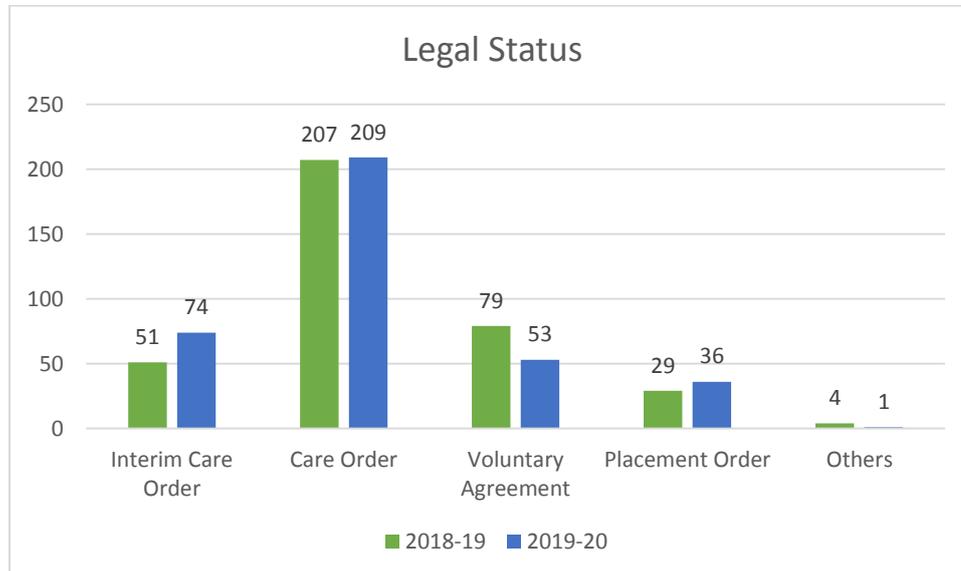
7.2 Generally the number of children in the younger age groups has increased slightly since 2018-19 but we have seen a reduction in age groups upwards of school age. This again could be a result of the effectiveness in the Family Safeguarding Model and work being completed with families at an earlier stage.

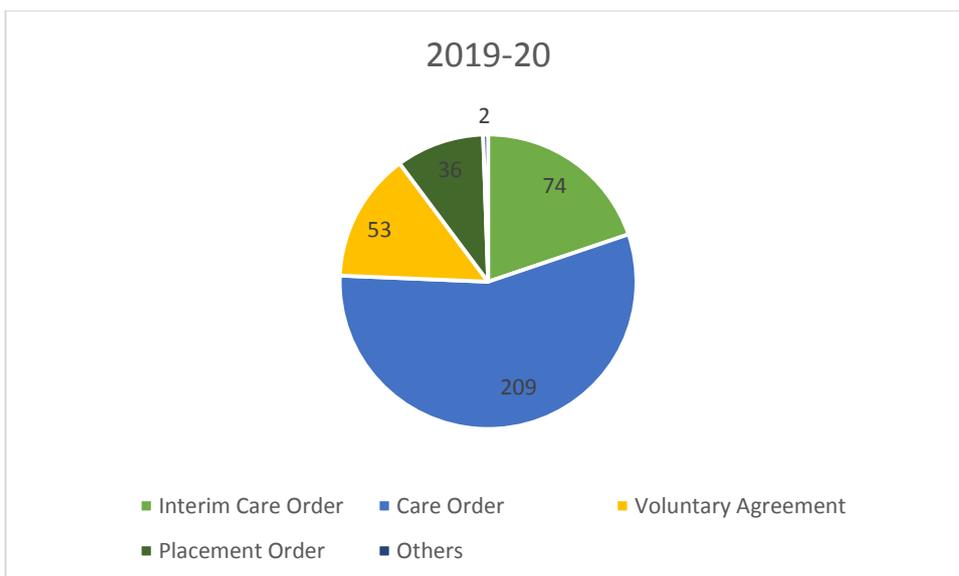
Age at 31 March 2019	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 1 year old	23	9	32
1 – 4 years old	25	17	42
5 – 9 years old	36	19	55
10 – 15 years old	85	67	152
16 – 17 years old	54	38	92
18 years and over	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>373</b>

There continues to be a larger population of boys looked after in Peterborough which reflects similar consistencies within other Local Authorities.

There were 13 unaccompanied children seeking asylum (UASC) looked after during 2019-20 which is just 1 more than 2018-19.

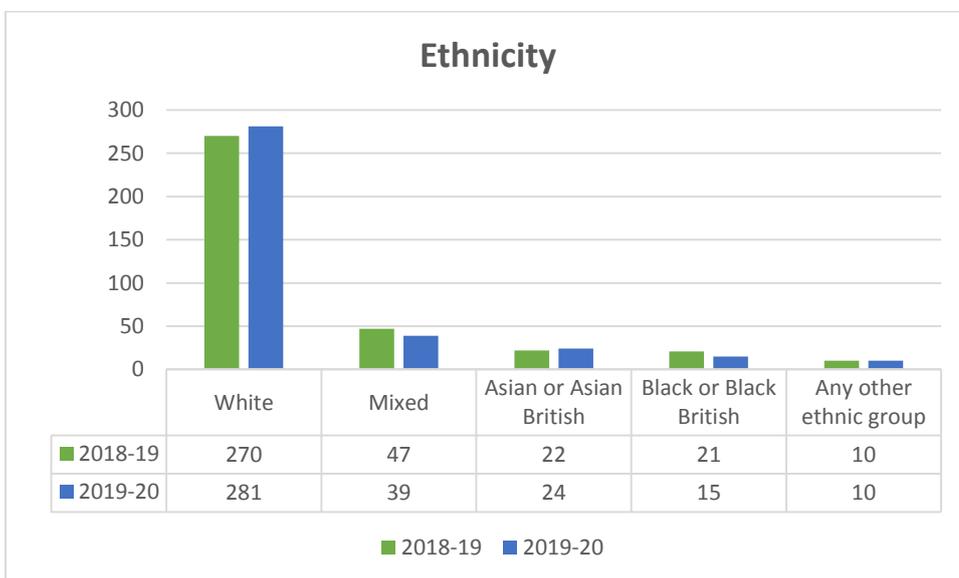
### 7.3 Legal Status





The number of Interim and Full Care Orders obtained for children has increased over the last two years with a significant increase in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19 whilst Voluntary Agreements and Placement Orders have decreased. Care Orders accounted for around two thirds of all Orders granted in 2019-20.

#### 7.4 Ethnicity



The graph above indicates a consistent reflection in the ethnicity of children in care across the last two years.

7.5 At year end March 2020, 5 children were subject to Placement Orders where adoption was no longer the plan with the Placement Order needing to be revoked, which is the same figure as reported for 2018-19. Effective tracking is in place to monitor these cases.

## 8. Children in Care Reviews

- 8.1 Between April 2019 and March 2020, 99.3% of reviews took place within statutory timescales in comparison to 99.8% in 2018-19. This is roughly the same percentage as at the time of the last reporting period and means that eight reviews took place outside of timescale. The reason for five of these as a sibling group was attributed late notification from the Children’s Social work team; for another sibling group of 2 there was a system error in terms of calculating due date over a Bank Holiday period; and for one child who was due to be transferred out of County but then remained resulting in late notification from the Social Work team.  
A total of 1046 CIC reviews were held in 2019-20.

CIC Reviews held within timescales	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	98.9%	99.8%	99.3%

- 8.2 The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit has systems in place, which enable CIC reviews to be held within timescales. These are as follows:
- At the beginning of each calendar month, business support staff send out the statutory due date for all CIC reviews. This means that responsible operational team managers, the manager of the conference and review service and IROs can monitor and ensure reviews do not go out of timescale.
  - Only the managers can authorise a change in a CIC review date. This endeavours to ensure that if a change of date is unavoidable, the new date is scheduled within statutory timescales. Where necessary and appropriate, meetings are adjourned or the review held over more than one meeting to ensure the review is child centred and involves all of the necessary professionals.
- 8.3 IROs focus on the steps taken to progress adoption and permanency planning at CIC reviews. They address delays by raising their concerns with social workers, responsible team managers and heads of service using the well-established case alert process and where appropriate the Dispute Resolution Process – see also section 12.
- 8.4 IROs complete and update a spreadsheet record of remedial actions and the Deputy Safeguarding Leads monitor this for timely completion. Where remedial actions are not completed in timely manner, IROs commence the dispute resolution process where appropriate.
- 8.5 IROs will arrange for CIC reviews to take place more frequently in certain circumstances, such as for children who live at a significant distance from Peterborough; and ‘where permanence planning is not being progressed in a timely manner’. These reviews include a high level of scrutiny and monitoring of decision-making and actions. This ensures they are in the best interests of the child and that there is minimal delay.

- 8.6 There is an ongoing arrangement between the Local Authority children's Social work teams and IROs. This helps to ensure that IROs receive copies of all documents including statements and reports that are filed with the court as part of care proceedings relating to children in care.
- 8.7 All IROs continue to deliver culturally competent practice and the child's individual needs, wishes and feelings are central to all reviews. IROs closely monitor the integration of a child's identity including culture, religion, ethnicity and birth family values to care planning.
- 8.8 IROs continue to fulfil their responsibility to children remanded into youth detention accommodation (YDA). The key to this role is to ensure that all of these children have active individual care plans that meet their needs. In developing the care plan for children who become looked after solely as a result of being remanded, the IRO will be aware that some children will only be looked after for the period they are remanded. In many cases this period will be relatively short. However, consideration will be given to what longer term support or accommodation the child will need following the remand episode should the young person continue to be looked after at the end of the remand period.

## **9. Children in Care Reviews – Participation**

- 9.1 It is the role of the IRO to encourage and promote the participation of children aged four years and over on the review process. IROs record the method at the end of each CIC review and these are coded in line with national guidance.
- 9.2 At year end 2019-2020, 100% of looked after children over the age of 4 had participated in their review to some degree and informed the shaping of their care plan. The locally set target is 95%. 43% of children over the age of four years attended part or all of their meeting in person. Of the children who did not attend their review, 79% sent their views in advance and 20% briefed their advocate with their views.
- 9.3 The Mind Of My Own 'One' App is an app that helps young people communicate their views in a way that suits them. Young people create their own account, which can be used on any device at any time. The Mind Of My Own 'Express App' is a co-designed, innovative and user-friendly app that helps children with learning disabilities and younger children express their views, wishes and feelings in a fun digital way that's easy for workers to understand and evidence.

The Mind Of My Own 'One' App was launched in Peterborough in April 2016 and the Mind Of My Own 'Express' App was introduced in December 2017.

There are currently 92 young people with Mind Of My Own accounts. 106 members of staff have Mind Of My Own accounts which are used to

support children to use the system. A total of 194 statements were received in the year, which is a decrease on the 229 received in the preceding year.

152 of the statements received in 2019/20 were via the Mind Of My Own 'One' App and 42 were received via the Mind Of My Own 'Express' App. The majority of statements were received in relation to worker visits and preparation for meetings.

- 9.4 The feedback from the consultation forms provide valuable information about the experience of children in care. In the main, the information suggests that most feel safe, listened to and well cared for. The consultation document is discussed with the child and with their consent, the IRO shares it with review participants.
- 9.5 IROs will always aim to spend time individually with children prior to a review to determine their wishes and feelings to identify if they have any concerns; and find out how they would like to participate in the meeting. This includes the time, venue and attendance at their meeting though it should be noted this remains primarily the social worker's responsibility. It is noteworthy that many young people do not want their reviews to disrupt their school day or leisure activities for example. Each child is given the opportunity to engage with an advocate, particularly if this maximises the young person's contribution to their reviews. In 2019-20, 522 IRO consultations/ visits to children prior to their review took place. This is exemplary.
- 9.6 IROs document their consultations with children on Liquid Logic to form a permanent record of the consultation. Consultation takes various forms, which includes face-to-face meetings, texting, telephone calls and emails. Children who have English as a second language always have an interpreter available and children with additional needs always have the support of their carers, specialist worker or an advocate. IROs actively encourage children to chair/ co-chair their reviews, and over this year there has been an increase in number of children to co-chair their reviews, this is particularly effective as children reach their teens and wish to have greater control over their meetings.
- 9.7 The Children in Care Participation Officer coordinates and facilitates the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and liaises with the Corporate Parenting Panel and Cabinet Members to facilitate dialogue between all parties. Peterborough City Council's Looked after Children's Strategy reflects the council's priority for children in care. This strategy lists priorities for the children and young people ensuring that good outcomes are pivotal to processes. Children in care in Peterborough benefit from the continued robust commitment of elected members of the council.
- 9.8 Parental participation is noted within the minutes of the review and monitored by the IRO manager. There were a total of 1046 CIC reviews completed in 2019-20. The level of participation by parents was approximately 40% for

mothers and just 20% of fathers in the year. In accordance with the Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations 2010, IROs offer to meet with parents outside of the main review meeting. This is particularly evident where a parent is prevented from attending. Parents are also given a consultation form to complete their views, wishes and feelings to inform the review.

## 10. Feedback on the IRO service

- 10.1 Parental and Child Feedback forms were introduced in March 2018 which aim to maximum the voice of the parent or child and also to seek to evaluate and improve practice within the service by identifying with the experiences of the CIC review process. We are still experiencing low numbers of these being completed and are looking into raising the profile.

*I am glad to be part of it as it is important to know what been decide in my childrens care plan*

*My plan allowed me to stay in my placement instead of where I used to live where I might have got into trouble.*

*Chair was nice and listened to everything I had to say.*

*I am very happy with the way things are going at the moment*

*Great meeting.*

*I feel my views were listened to and that all reports from professionals were fair and correct.*

10.2 Professional feedback forms were introduced in March 2018. During 2019-20 a total of 151 feedback forms were completed by professionals attending CIC reviews. This is a significant decrease on last year where over 700 were received. Although the outbreak of Covid-19 would have undoubtedly impacted on the completion of these, we are currently exploring with the IRO's why numbers have decreased so significantly.

The following areas of good practice were identified:

- The voice of the child is discussed and made clear.
- Professionals have the opportunity to give their views and feel heard in the CCR.
- The IRO takes into consideration the views of the child/young person, carer and social worker.
- All the issues from the child/young person's care plan are discussed in the CCR.
- Professionals are able to contact the IRO between reviews to discuss issues and notify relevant changes.

10.3 Professionals agree that the child's voice is well represented in CCR and also felt that they were able to express their opinions. Professionals noted that the IRO gave consideration to the views of the child, the social worker, the carer, other professionals, and to a slightly lesser extent, the parents and family. Professionals reported that the child's care plan was discussed, and that decisions progressed the plan. Scores in relation to the quality of IRO oversight and IRO availability were notably high.

*XXX is a competent professional who will always command respect with other professional colleague - outstandingly reliable!.*

*Very positive review.*

*Very well managed review*

*It is clear the IRO has a good understanding of this family and the child's wishes and feelings*

*Very child focused review*

## 11. Positive Impact – ‘You said, we did’

11.1 Within the service, we produce a report to highlight some of the examples of impact that IROs have on children’s lives. Below are some examples:

### YOU SAID...

### WE DID...

*X wanted to feedback his experiences as a LAC to TM to improve services for other children*

IRO arranged this call and now he has been put forward to QA to offer further insight

*your court order had your wrong name on the order*

The IRO highlighted this with Legal and your social worker. When the final order is made about your permanent home your order will be correct for the carers that you are being cared by

*you were very worried about the court process and unsure about what was going to happen to you*

The IRO challenged the LA about you returning home to your parents and they completed new parenting assessments and changed their view and they now want you to remain in care

*you asked for you belongings to be collected from your previous placement*

The IRO suggested that you gave them written permission to pick up your things and your things were then collected

*you were feeling very stressed and unhappy in your placement shortly after lock down. You spoke about running away but we agreed when I spoke to you that getting permission to visit and stay with your friend for a few days was a better plan*

The IRO spoke to the SW team and they contacted you later and agreed a short stay with your friend. This meant you were not reported missing

*X said that she wanted to go trick or treating with her friends*

IRO agreed a decision and a plan in the review around how this could happen as it was very important for X to be able to go with her friends.

*X did not want to be moved to the Foyer accommodation post 18.*

IRO escalated the proposed plan to senior management and as a result X placement was extended.

*X was stressed and worried and she did not know where she was moving too. There had been drift in planning*

With the support of the IRO, X placement was extended to aid proper transition planning.

*I am not happy with my Care Plan the information is not up to date even my carers are wrong.*

IRO completed a young person's Care Plan audit and escalated to management the concerns raised by the young person regarding the Care Plan. As a result the Care Plan was updated.

*I have been told I need to go home to Mum, I don't want to go back. Mum isn't working with people. I don't know what is going on.*

The IRO escalated to senior management identifying that the rehabilitation back home plan was not appropriate and causing stress to the young person. Agreement was made for the young person to remain in foster care until further assessment had been completed.

**12. Quality Assurance and Audit of Children in Care Arrangements**

12.1 The effectiveness of the IRO service and the difference they make to children's experiences of being in care in Peterborough is monitored through the activity of the Quality Assurance Team including the ongoing thematic audit programmes. In addition, team and senior managers undertake a programme of case file audits and use Ofsted judgements to grade cases. All cases where remedial actions are identified and monitored by the QA Team to ensure that appropriate action is taken in a timely manner. Audit themes and areas for development inform service improvement plans for each service.

12.2 Established organisational systems contribute to good practice. IROs

routinely receive minutes of the Peterborough Access to Services Panel (PASP) and can challenge decision making with the PASP chairperson following discussion with their manager and the Head of Service.

- 12.3 All IROs complete a monitoring form after each statutory meeting. This is sent to the social worker and responsible team manager. If the IRO identifies an immediate cause for concern they will raise a case alert. They will always discuss their concern with the case responsible manager/senior manager and agree a course of actions with timescales. This will then be followed up with an email to the responsible manager and Head of Service and any other managers as appropriate. This ensures that immediate action is taken to safeguard and protect the child.
- 12.4 As part of the Quality Assurance and Learning Framework, young people's audits of their care plan were introduced in 2016 in order to identify and evidence the effectiveness of the whole system surrounding the child and to obtain their views about the service they receive. The IROs are asked to complete these with children during the visits where the child is age appropriate and agrees and they are collated and reported on by the Quality Assurance Team. Audits received this year did report positive experiences for children.

### **13. Dispute Resolution**

- 13.1 The IRO Handbook clearly describes the role of the IRO where there are areas of disagreement: 'One of the key functions of the IRO is to resolve problems arising out of the care planning process. It is expected that IROs establish positive working relationships with the social workers of the children for whom they are responsible. Where problems are identified in relation to a child's case, for example in relation to care planning, the implementation of the care plan or decisions relating to it, resources or poor practice, the IRO will, in the first instance, seek to resolve the issue informally with the social worker or the social worker's managers. The IRO should place a note of this initial informal resolution process on the child's file. If the matter is not resolved in a timescale that is appropriate to the child's needs, the IRO should consider taking formal action.
- 13.2 During 2019/20, the Independent Chairs raised 205 case alerts. Twelve cases went to formal DRP; most of which were addressed within timescale and three are outstanding with further discussions taking place. Of the 12, 3 were escalated to Stage 3. The method of recording was also updated in 2020 to enable better scrutiny of themes and issues raised which will further tie into the Manager and Group Manager meetings. In addition, updates are sent to Heads of Service and Group Managers on a two-weekly basis to ensure management oversight and to bring attention to outstanding alerts. The following themes were noted with regard to the case alerts raised:
- Practice issues, which include assessments and other paperwork not being completed;
  - Drift in care planning;

- Statutory visits;
- Placement issues;
- Pre-meeting reports not completed, shared or of adequate quality;
- Issues regarding placement;
- Poor quality care plans.

13.3 Relationships between Cafcass and the IRO service continue to be positive with a named guardian and IRO providing a link between the two services. Cafcass attend the IRO team meeting twice yearly and the named IRO reciprocates this arrangement. This ensures joined up working and the sharing of information continues to be a priority between the professionals who maintain albeit differing degrees of independence from the operational social work teams.

## **14. Summary**

14.1 The IRO Service has continued to provide effective provision for reviewing and monitoring the Care Plans for children in care. It contributes to improved outcomes for children in care through increasing participation of children and young people in the decision making about their care, as well as making independent representations to operational teams and management on planning and practice issues. The independent scrutiny provided by the team is valued by social workers and management.

## **15. Independent Reviewing Officer Achievements in 2019/20**

15.1

- a) Caseloads – Independent Reviewing Officers’ caseloads have remained within the recommended guidelines of between 50 and 70. This has enabled the IROs to meet expectations for a high quality service whereby all aspects of their role are undertaken.
- b) Oversight and Quality Assurance – IROs have actively addressed concerns, poor practice and non-compliance in a systematic and professional manner to promote the improvement of standards amongst social work teams and partner agencies. Challenging as denoted within the IRO Handbook and ensuring that timescales are adhered to.
- c) IRO footprint – There has been clear evidence obtained throughout case audits, supervisions and dataset analysis of the consistent presence and oversight of the IRO and clear demonstrations of the IRO footprint on their caseloads.
- d) Children’s voices – There has been a consistent approach by IROs to maximise the engagement of children and the evidence within reports demonstrates an awareness and objective to ensure that the voice of the child is heard achieving 100% in the year.

- e) Themed audits – the Quality Assurance team continues to undertake a significant number of thematic audits across Children’s Social Care (CSC) and a number of audits across the IRO service have evidenced robust systems and competent and effective practice and established performance.
- f) Learning and development – The IRO service continues to promote good practice and to develop and embed learning and supportive relationships within the wider sector. IROs take responsibility in organising and managing meetings with operational team managers to identify impacts and issues within the service and to recognise areas of good practice as well as areas for improvement. They work together in maintaining a respectful, transparent and learning abled forum within which to identify and design models of ideal working.
- g) The IROs also take turns to represent Peterborough City Council at the Eastern Regional IRO network. Unfortunately the annual IRO conference due to take place in May 2020 has been postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak but discussions are ongoing in relation to setting a new date in 2021.
- h) The IROs have contributed to the increase in dental checks and health assessments for children in care due to increased monitoring. They have also been instrumental in the increased oversight of children at risk of CSE or Missing episodes.
- i) The IRO’s have shown remarkable professionalism, dedication and creativity since the outbreak of Covid-19 and have risen to the challenges of the virtual world, engaging young people in care, carers, parents and professionals in timely and effective reviews. No reviews were cancelled as a result of implications caused by the pandemic in March 2020.

**16. Areas of Development for 2020/21**

- a) IROs will continue to proactively contribute to improving outcomes for looked after children through rigorous monitoring and challenge of care planning and promoting timely permanency planning.
- b) To support the service in identifying and implementing effective and creative strategies for involving children and young people in the review process in a way that suits them.
- c) To increase the number of children/young people chairing/co-chairing their review.
- d) To continue to contribute to the early identification of children/young people who may be able to return home safely to their families.
- e) IROs will continue to raise awareness amongst Social Workers of the need to keep the IRO informed of significant events between review

meetings and to consult the IRO before important decisions are taken in respect of changes to the child's care plan.

- f) To continue to support in establishing good working relationships with Cambridgeshire County Council and to continue to improve processes and services across the two Local Authorities.
- g) To continue to build established relationships with partner agencies.

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 12</b>
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn Executive Director People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Myra O’Farrell Head of Service Corporate Parenting	Tel: 864391

**PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS  
SEPTEMBER 2020**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM:</b> Nicola Curley Assistant Director Children’s Services	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that members of Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the content of the report, and</li> <li>2. Raise any questions with the lead officer</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee to each formal and formal committee as part of the standing work programme item in relation to performance.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of 30 September 2020 by providing a breakdown of the types of placements in which they are living. The report also provides information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.

2.5 This reports to the Children in Care Pledge by focussing on the placements for children in care and care leavers.

**3. TIMESCALES**

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

- 4.1 As of 30 September 2020 there were 396 in the care of the local authority; of these:
- 4.2 146 children were placed with foster carers who work for Peterborough City Council (in house).
- 4.3 132 children were in foster care and placed with independent fostering agencies (IFA'S) outside of the city boundaries. The agency works with the Local Authority on a contractual basis to provide foster placements.
- 4.4 23 post 16 years olds were living on their own (independent living) but still classed as CLA with an allocated Social Worker. Independent living assists the young person with the transition to leaving care. These young people are supported by our Leaving Care Service.
- 4.5 33 children were placed with family or friends' carers (connected person). These carers are formally assessed in the same way that our other in house carers are assessed and are presented to the Fostering Panel for approval in the way. They are paid the same level of allowances as other in house foster carers.
- 4.6 3 children were living with their parents but are still considered 'looked after' because they are subject to a full care order so the Council still shares parental responsibility with the birth parent. Placements with parents are often made pending a plan for reunification with the parent and in some cases will result in an application for care orders to be revoked.
- 4.7 3 children were placed for adoption.
- 4.8 52 children and young people (without disabilities) were placed in residential educational care that provides intensive support in a residential setting. These placements are most usually made when it is clear that foster care is not sufficient to meet the child or young person's needs. Residential care is nearly always accessed by adolescents and only rarely used for younger children in very special circumstances.
- 4.9 There were 4 children (with disabilities) placed in specialist residential care.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 N/A

#### **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 This is an accurate report of the current accommodation placements for children in care and care leavers.

#### **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The data included in this report is from the monthly performance report which includes live data.

#### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 N/A

#### **9. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 *Summarise here any financial implications related to this item and seek input from finance service.*
  - 9.1.1

## Legal Implications

9.2 Summarise here any legal implications related to this item and seek input from legal service.

## Equalities Implications

9.3 The current recruitment campaign for foster carers is focussed on increasing placements for specific groups linked to ethnicity, gender and age of the current cohort of children in care.

## 9.4 Carbon Emissions Implications

This has been considered and is carbon neutral/

## 9.5 Children in Care Implications

This report relates to all children in care.

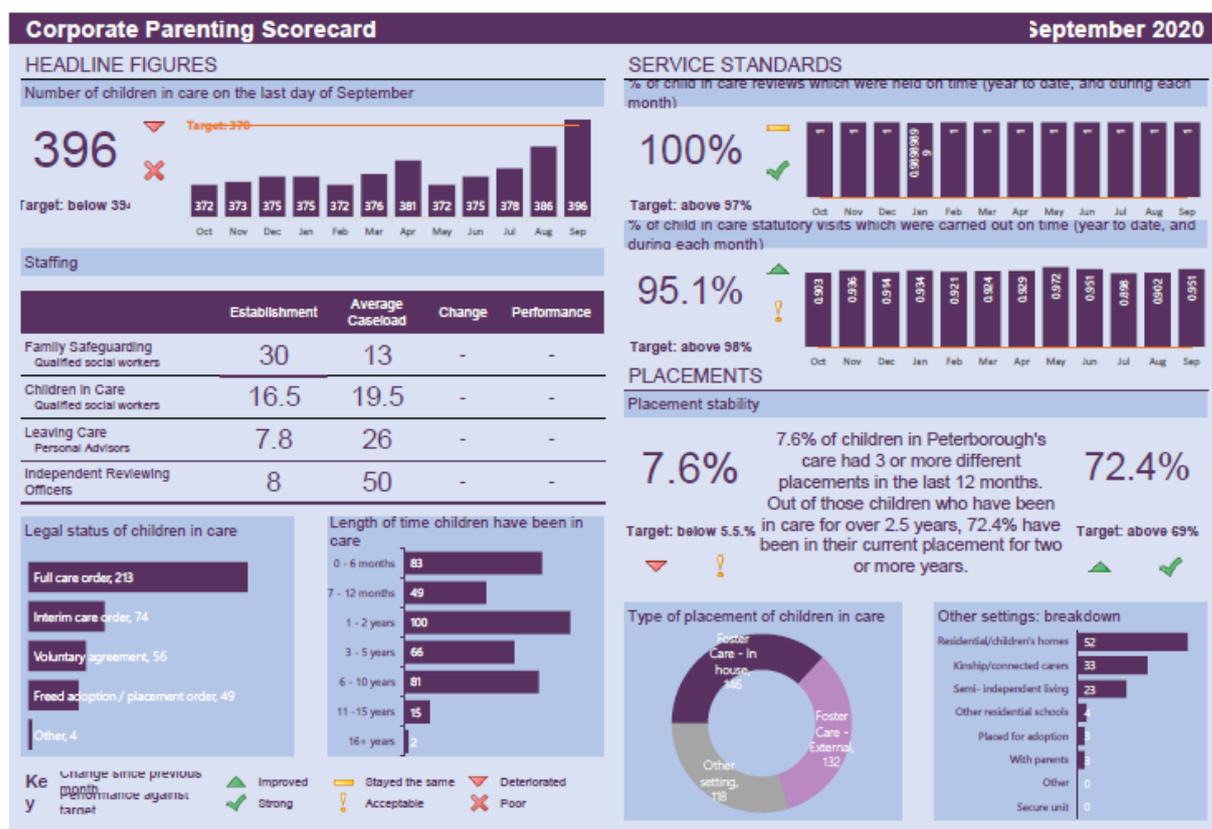
## 10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

### 10.1 Monthly Performance Report

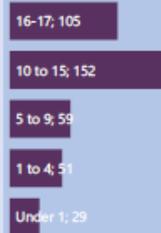
## 11. APPENDICES

### 11.1 Appendix 1 – Scorecard September 2020



EDUCATION

Children in care by age group



% of school-aged children in care who have a PEP in place

100.0%

Target: above 98%

A Personal Education Plan (PEP) was in place for 215 out of 215 school-aged children who were in care for at least a month by the end of September.

80.0%

80.0% of Peterborough's children in care are taught in good or outstanding schools.

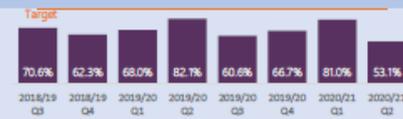
% of school-aged children in care in good or outstanding schools

HEALTH - SERVICE STANDARDS

Children in care whose initial health assessment was completed on time (Year to date and by quarter)

64.2%

Target: above 95%



Children in care whose annual health assessment was completed on time

89.0%

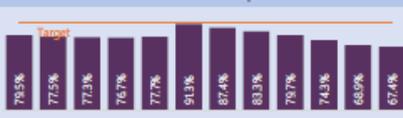
Target: above 93%



Children in care whose annual dental examination was completed on time

67.4%

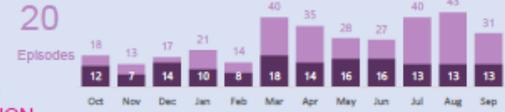
Target: above 93%



Children in care who go missing (with number of episodes)

11 20

Children

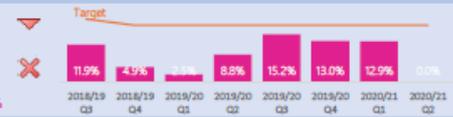


ADOPTION

% of children leaving care who are adopted (Year to date and by quarter)

9.5%

Target: above 18%



Timeliness of adoption process

Time to placement

519

Target: below 426

For children adopted during the past 12 months, an average of 519 days passed between the child entering care and them moving into their adoptive placement. An average of 177.285714285714 days passed between their placement order being granted and approval of a match with their adopters.

Time to match

177

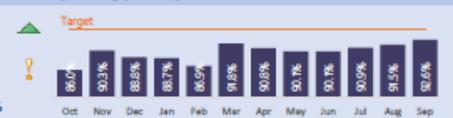
Target: below 120

CARE LEAVERS

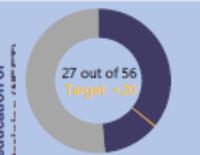
Care Leavers who have a pathway plan in place

92.6%

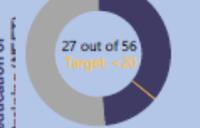
Target: above 95%



19 to 21 year old care leavers who are not in employment, education or training



19 to 21 year old care leavers who live in unsuitable accommodation



<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 12a
<b>25 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Sarah Hamilton Head of Safeguarding People Peterborough and Cambridgeshire CCG	<a href="mailto:sarah.hamilton5@nhs.net">sarah.hamilton5@nhs.net</a>

## HEALTH REPORT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM: Assistant Director Children's Social Care</b>	<b>Deadline date: N/A</b>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes the content of this report, and</li> <li>2. Raise any queries with the Lead Officers</li> </ol>	

### 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to each formal Corporate Parenting Committee.

### 2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems are in place to meet the health needs of the Looked after Children population in Peterborough

2.2 2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its terms of reference no:

2.4.3.6 (c) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.

2.3 2.3 This links to priority 4 of the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter. Health issues of Children and young people in care

### 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 June 2020

**Initial assessments** – 4 all were within timescale.

July 2020

**Initial assessments** – 14 referrals, 6 seen within timescale, 3 delayed due to clinician capacity.

August 2020

**Initial assessments** – 12 referrals, 1 seen within timescale, 4 booked to be seen, 6 seen 3 within 3 working days late, 2 requested through other local authority.

4.2 The new Designated Nurse Children in Care starts 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 3 days per week, induction planned with key stake holders and will be getting to know wider Councillors in the coming weeks.

4.3 Positive working relationships maintained between Local Authority and Health during covid, facilitated through weekly/fortnightly cross agency meetings which enable shared discussion around key issues and pathway management.

4.4. Health Assessments - In line with national guidance our providers moved to virtual assessments in order to deliver initial and review health assessment. This approach has both positives and negatives in terms of the assessment and engagement. However Face to Face clinics are delivered where clinically indicated or referral to another service as appropriate.

4.5 Along with that the feedback received from carers and young people, the experience of having a virtual assessment, has broadly been welcomed and compliance rate to delivery of assessments is good.

4.6 Support for social workers, young people or other agencies not been compromised despite Covid and home working. The annual audit will be done in the new year, with learning shaping future service delivery models which will no doubt be a mixed model to ensure the positive learning from Covid is taken through into the shape of future services.

4.7 UASC pathway continues to be monitored to ensure it is as effective as possible, including review of delivery around blood born viruses. Refugee council commissioned to provide support for UASC and primary care.

4.8 Dental Services - concerns raised with NHS England and Public Health England around access to dental services for vulnerable children. Follow up meeting at the end of November.

#### 5. CONSULTATION N/A

#### 6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 To improve health and well-being for Looked after Children by ensuring adequate assessment of health and addressing areas where there may be a lack of provision.

#### 7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee have requested a health update at all formal committees.

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

**9. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

9.1 N/A

**Legal Implications**

9.2 N/A

**Equalities Implications**

9.3 N/A

**Carbon Impact Assessment**

9.4 Carbon impact in relation to this report has been considered and there is a neutral impact.

**Implications for Children in Care**

9.5 This report relates to the health needs of all children in care.

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 None

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None

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<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.	
Contact Officer(s):	Karen S Dunleavy Email: karen.dunleavy@peterborough.gov.uk	Tel. 01733 452233

## **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



Date Updated – 7 October 2020

DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/2021		
<b>23 September 2020 Informal</b>		
	<b>Part 1</b>	
Priority	Topic	Contact Officer
2. Effective care planning	Update from Children in Care Council (CiCC) b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	CiCC
2. Effective care planning	You Asked We Did b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	Shalina Chandoo/ Sika Smith
Priorities 2 - 6	Draft Work Programme and Review of Work in 2020 - 2021	Karen Dunleavy/Nicola Curley/Myra O'Farrell
Priorities 2 - 6	Draft Report on Appointment of Champion Members d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Karen Dunleavy/Nicola Curley/Myra O'Farrell
	Update from Corporate Parenting Champions	Corporate Parenting Champion
Priorities 2 - 6	<b>Part 2</b>	
Priorities 2 - 6	Case Study – Care Leavers support during Covid	
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Members

Priorities 2 - 6	Performance Report Circulated as a Briefing note. Any issues can be raised in the Members Issues section of the agenda.	For Information
<b>25 November 2020 (Formal)</b>		
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
2. Effective Care Planning	Update from Foster Carers and Youth Voice Coordinator for CICC d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Foster Carers/Shalina Chandoo/ Marya Ali
Priorities 2 - 6	Appointment of Champion Members d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	
5. Educational attainment and achievement	Virtual School report on provision during lockdown and attainment including education opportunities for UASCs  University experience for our Care Leavers in relation to the impact of Covid  Apprenticeship and Work Opportunities for Care Leavers Update  Report updating the CL Offer	Dee Glover  Myra O'Farrell  Dee Glover  Joe Gilbert
All priorities	Annual Corporate Parenting Committee Report to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee 2019/2020	Myra O'Farrell
2. Effective care planning	Annual IRO Report 2019 - 2020	Marie Saunders
	Members Issues	
	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placements of Children in Care</li> <li>• Scorecard</li> <li>• Health Report</li> </ul>	Nicola Curley/Myra O'Farrell Sarah Hamilton
	Draft Work Programme 2020 – 2021 and Review of Work in 2019 - 2020	Karen Dunleavy/Nicola Curley/Myra O'Farrell
<b>20 January 2021 (Informal)</b>		
	<b>Part 1</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>

2. Effective care planning	Update from Children in Care Council (CiCC) b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	Children in Care
2. Effective care planning	You Asked We Did b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	Shalina Chandoo/ Sika Smith
	Update from Corporate Parenting Champions	Corporate Parenting Champion
Priorities 2 - 6	<b>Part 2</b>	
Priorities 2 - 6	Case Study – SDQs Health impact of Covid on CIC and CL; to include their families/carers; to consider support around emotional health needs and contact.	Sarah Hamilton
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Members
Priorities 2 - 6	Work Programme	
Priorities 2 - 6	Performance Report Circulated as a Briefing note. Any issues can be raised in the Members Issues section of the agenda.	For Information
<b>17 March 2021 (Formal)</b>		
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
2. Effective care planning	Update from Foster Carers and Youth Voice Coordinator for CiCC d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Foster Carers/Shalina Chandoo/ Marya Ali
Health	Annual Health report including specific needs of UAS children; addendum required in relation to the impact of Covid on both physical and mental health services to CIC; the specific impact on disabled children; and the roadmap back to normal service delivery.  Update on services for CIC in care with emotional and mental health difficulties  Report on the final structure for clinical offer for CIC  Report to confirm new Regional Adoption Agency and fostering structures	Sarah Hamilton  Joanne Carr  Alison Bennett  Nicola Curley
	Members Issues	

	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Placements of Children in Care</li> <li>● Scorecard</li> <li>● Health Report -</li> </ul>	Nicola Curley/Myra O'Farrell Deborah Spencer
	Annual Corporate Parenting Committee Report to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	Nicola Curley/Myra O'Farrell
	Work Programme	Karen Dunleavy/Nicola Curley/Myra O'Farrell

<b>2.4</b>	<b>Peterborough Corporate Parenting Committee</b>
2.4.1	It is advised that Members undertake relevant training within the past three years in order to hold a seat on this committee.
<b>2.4.2</b>	<b>Terms of Reference</b>
<b>2.4.2.1</b>	<b>Our Commitment to Children and Young People in Care:</b>
	Peterborough City Council is committed to raising the quality of life of everyone living within the city. For children in particular, the city council aims to provide high quality opportunities for learning and ensure children are healthy and safe. It is important that the Corporate Parenting Committee members ensure that the Council provides such care, education and opportunities that the Committee would be afforded to their own children.
<b>2.4.3</b>	<b>Purpose:</b>
2.4.3.1	To ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.
2.4.3.2	On behalf of the Council and partners of the Local Authority to ensure that all services directly provided for children and young people in care and care leavers are scrutinised to deliver to a high standard and to all statutory requirements.
2.4.3.3	To raise the aspiration, ambitions and life chances of children and young people in care, narrowing the gap of achievement between children in care and their peers.
2.4.3.4	To ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.
2.4.3.5	To ensure that all elected members are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and that all Council services are mindful of the needs of children in care and respond accordingly within their particular remit.
<b>2.4.4</b>	<b>Functions of the Committee:</b>
2.4.4.1	To act as advocates for looked after children and care leavers.
2.4.4.2	To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
2.4.4.3	Ensure that the needs of looked after children and care leavers are addressed through key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements.
2.4.4.4	Review complaints from looked after children to ensure officers have dealt with these appropriately and made any recommendations for change.

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.
2.4.4.6	<p>To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.</li> <li>2. Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.</li> <li>3. Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.</li> <li>4. Hold meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the committee of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.</li> <li>5. Monitor the ongoing commitment to providing support, training and clarity of expectations to foster carers to achieve excellent and high quality care.</li> <li>6. To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care, with the roles being decided and approved by the Committee at the first formal meeting of the municipal year.</li> </ol>
<b>2.4.5</b>	<b>Work Programme</b>
2.4.5.1	The Corporate Parenting Committee will formally agree 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.
<b>2.4.6.2</b>	<b>Performance Monitoring</b>
	<p>The Corporate Parenting Committee will scrutinise and monitor outcomes for children in care and care leavers. To this end, the Committee will develop and agree a core data set which it wishes to receive at each Committee meeting. Additional detailed monitoring reports will be presented in accordance with the agreed work programme on the following key aspects of care:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Placement stability</li> <li>2. Independent child care reviews</li> <li>3. The performance of all care standards regulated services</li> <li>4. Adoption and adoption support</li> <li>5. Fostering</li> <li>6. Children's homes</li> <li>7. Service to care leavers, including accommodation, education, employment and training</li> <li>8. The health needs of children in care</li> </ol>

	9. Educational attainment of children in care
2.4.5.4	The Corporate Parenting Committee will report to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and to the Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis or more frequently if required.
<b>2.4.7</b>	<b>Membership of the Committee</b>
2.4.7.1	There will be a standing membership of the Corporate Parenting Committee to provide continuity and consistency. Councillors outside the standing membership will be invited to discuss issues and raise questions within a standing agenda item.
2.4.7.2	The membership of the Corporate Parenting Committee must include the Cabinet Member with the responsibility for Children’s Services.
2.4.7.3	All Councillors are invited to attend the informal meetings. The Committee may also co-opt non-voting members. Membership may include up to four foster carers and representatives from the Children in Care Council. The Committee may invite participation from non-members where this is relevant to their work.
<b>2.4.8</b>	<b>Children in Care Council</b>
2.4.8.1	Representatives from the Children in Care Council may attend the Corporate Parenting Committee up until and no later than 8pm.

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## APPENDIX 3

### Working to our promises in the Pledge

#### Children in Care Pledge

1. **Respect** - We will respect you as individuals, with differing wants, needs and beliefs and tailor the service you get to fit you.
2. **Safe** – We will keep you safe and help you to keep yourself safe.
3. **Support** – We will support you in all aspects of your education so you are able to achieve your full potential.
4. **Health** – We will support you to live a healthy lifestyle and ensure you are offered regular health checks and supported to attend these.
5. **Listen** – We will support you to have a voice in your care plan and make sure you are listened to. We will ensure you know how to make a complaint or compliment about your care. You will have access to advocacy support to do this if wanted.
6. **Information** – We will keep you updated of any changes to your care plan and ensure you have contact details of your Social Worker and IRO as well as all meeting dates.
7. **Life Story**– We will make sure you know why you are in care and support you to understand this honestly at different age appropriate times through your journey.
8. **Contact** – We will support you, where possible, to have contact with the important people in your life (including friends).
9. **Prepare** – We will make sure you are given the knowledge and skills to ensure you are ready for adult life.
10. **Promises** – We will NOT make unrealistic promises to you and will explain fully if we are unable to do something.

## **Care Leavers Charter**

### **1. Respect**

We will listen to you as individuals with an open mind, with your different needs, ideas and beliefs. We will tailor the service to fit you or make sure you have an explanation if we are not able to do something for you.

### **2. Helping you to do the best you can**

We will value your strengths and talents, encouraging your aspirations. We will support you with education and employment.

If we can't meet your needs we will try and help you find a service that can. We will do our best to help you break-down barriers you might encounter with other agencies, to ensure you reach your goals.

### **3. Health and well-being**

We will support you to live a healthy lifestyle. It is important to look after all aspects of your health, including sexual, and emotional health as well as physical health. We will do what we can to ensure you know what you can do to keep healthy and that you have the right information and know what to do if you have any concerns.

### **4. Clear Communication**

We will stay in touch with you, and make sure you can contact your worker in a way that is best for you. We will let you know how to complain or access an advocate if you are not happy with the service you have. We will invite you to express your views on how the service can be improved.

### **5. Finding a home**

We will work alongside you to prepare you for your move into independent living. We will help you think about the choices available and to find accommodation and furnishings that are right for you. We will do everything we can to ensure you are happy and feel safe when you move to independent living. We recognise that at different times we may need to reconsider the plan depending on your differing needs.

### **5. Support**

We will provide support set out in current Regulations and Guidance. As well as information, advice, practical and financial help, we will provide emotional support. We recognise that you might change your mind about what you want to do. If we can't meet those needs we will try and help you find a service that can.

Meeting Type	Meeting Date	Item	Recommendation	Actions	Referred to	Response/ Outcome	Needs Follow Up
Informal	12/6/2019	4. Corporate Parenting Champions Report		<p>The Committee noted the report and agreed that:</p> <p>That Committee Members would put forward their preferences for Corporate Parenting Champion positions for consideration at the formal meeting on 17th July 2019;</p> <p>The Head of Corporate Parenting would explore the option of including an additional Corporate Parenting Champion role to support Care Leavers Transition; and</p> <p>To combine the education and training champion role.</p>	Councillors/Democratic Services Officer	N/A	No
Informal	12/06/19	5. Update From The Participation Officer For Children In Care Council		The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the update and agreed that Members would explore opportunities available to donate funding for the Children in Care welcome packs and communicate their findings to the Children in Care Council.	Councillors/Senior Participants	N/A	No
Formal	17-Jul-19	5. UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARER FORUM		The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and RESOLVED (unanimously) to note the report and agreed that TACT would provide details of how the recent training package for foster carers would be accessible by all groups of carers.	Andy Pallas	Briefing note provided	01/11/19
Formal	17/07/19	8.APPRENTICESHIP AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARE LEAVERS UPDATE		The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and RESOLVED (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the Not in Employment Education or Training Team would provide further detail to the Committee about what measures were in place to track Care Leavers who were out of touch with the Leaving Care Service and establish their education or employment.	Denham Huges	Briefing note provided	13/11/19
Informal	25/09/19	6. Members Issues		The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the update and it was agreed that the Youth Voice Coordinator and ICS Youth Lead would confirm with the CiCC what start time they would prefer for the informal meetings for 2020/2021.	Jenny Weeden	Completed	
Formal	20/11/19	ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT		<p>The Democratic Services Officer would contact the Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the looked after children's psychologist to:</p> <p>Invite them to a future meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee to discuss mental health services provided to Children in Care and Care Leavers; and</p> <p>Request a report in relation to the provision of mental health wellbeing services, including the work undertaken to support the stability of placements for Children in Care and Care Leavers.</p>	Karen Dunleavy	Joanna Carr from NHS due to attend the meeting in November 2020	18/08/20

Meeting Type	Meeting Date	Item	Recommendation	Actions	Referred to	Response/ Outcome	Needs Follow Up
		FORMAL REPORT IN RELATION TO CHILDREN IN CARE PEER REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN		The Corporate Parenting Committee RESOLVED to note the report and agreed that an update would be provided to Members outlining the progress of the peer review actions.	Myra O'Farrell		
				The Corporate Parenting Committee RESOLVED (unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the start time for Corporate Parenting Committee meetings in 2020-2021 would be held as follows:  Formal – 6:00pm Informal – 6:00pm	Karen Dunleavy	Included in report to Council	No
				The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University would: Liaise with Cabinet, the Director of Law and Governance and the Executive Director People and Communities to explore any action that could be taken to help endorse sponsor campaigns or highlight funding for the coming into care packs designed by the Children in Care Council; and  Feedback any conclusions to the Corporate Parenting Committee and Children in Care Council.	Cllr Ayres	Funding was not possible through Peterborough City Council, however, the CiCC has been successful with a bid for funding from the Office of the Police Crime Commission.	23-Sep-20