

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
18 JULY 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Social Care Myra O'Farrell, Head of Service Corporate Parenting	Tel. 864065 864391

REPORT ON UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN'S HEALTH, ACCOMMODATION AND EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Assistant Director Children's Services	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report; and • Raise any queries they have with the lead officers. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 Corporate Parenting Committee have requested an update report on the progress with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 To update the Corporate Parenting Committee on progress made with UASC placed in Peterborough.
- 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.
- 2.3 This links into all aspects of the Children in Care Pledge.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Peterborough currently has 29 UASC under the age of 18 years.
- 4.2 Peterborough receives Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people either through them arriving spontaneously in our local area or through the Eastern Region transfer protocol. Via the Protocol, we assume responsibility for young people who have transferred, but equally our

colleague Authorities will also take on responsibility for children when children transfer from us to their areas.

- 4.3 In the last 6 months, the Council has been focusing on a number of areas with this specific group of young people to enhance their outcomes.
 - 4.3.1 This included a joint piece of work with Health services and private providers in March 2018, which focused on blood borne virus screening. This was in recognition that other health authorities had undertaken similar large scale screening programmes to benchmark their local need, prevent wider scale public health issues and offer health provision to UASC.
 - 4.3.2 This was retrospective in nature as this had not been previously offered previously in Peterborough. This was a successful joint project with Health, and private providers and and has resulted in all the UASC attending the clinic specifically set up on a Saturday afternoon through I-Cash.
 - 4.3.3 This was a precursor for the setting up of routine screening services for all UASC as part of their initial health assessments.
 - 4.3.4 Education and UASC accessing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses during the academic year was raised as a concern by a private provider. This resulted in a meeting with the Virtual School, Corporate Parenting and Peterborough Regional College in April. The issue was addressed quickly and no concerns have been raised since.
- 4.4 There will be a more detailed report around educational input to UASCs at the Committee focusing on education.
- 45 The Red Cross provides additional support in relation to family finding for the UASC young people in their country of origin. They also provide immigration advice and guidance. In the last 3 weeks they have been running youth groups.
- 4.6 Support for over 18 year old UASC comes in the form of the above access to Red Cross Services.
- 4.7 Peterborough Children's Social Care offer the following support:
 - 4.7.1 Personal Advisors will attend the first interview with the UASC young person with their legal representative. The funding for this is offered to enable them to access their solicitor. If there is need for additional reports such as health, psychiatric and psychological assessments to support their asylum application then this is paid for by the local authority as part of our role as Corporate Parents.
 - 4.7.2 The council fully fund Home Office appointments including where required hotel provision on top of travel.
 - 4.7.3 The Personal Advisors work closely with the Housing department who have supported the PAs in challenging other Local Authorities to prevent a UASC young person becoming homeless. Those with a right to remain have access to local housing and support as a care leaver would have to set up their own home.
- 4.8 There will be a more detailed report on placement and accommodation options for UASCs and Asylum Seeking Care Leavers at the Committee focusing on placements.
- 4.9 There are some UASC young people who require additional mental and physical health provision linked to their experiences; this is accessed through the usual routes open to care leavers, with the additional support of interpreters where required.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 To continue to develop services for our UASC young people, and work to improve their long term life chances through stable placements, and health and educational support.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To ensure Corporate Parenting members are fully briefed on UASC placed in Peterborough.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 None

Legal Implications

9.2 None

Equalities Implications

9.3 None

Other Implications

9.4 To ensure that the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People placed in Peterborough are receiving appropriate services and support as are all children in care and 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 None

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