

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
11 MARCH 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg, Executive Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Gary Jones, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Targeted Support	Tel. 01733 863624

CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: John Gregg, Executive Director of Children's Services	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note and comment on the Annual Corporate Parenting Report for 2022-2023. 2. Comment on how services for children and young people are being delivered based on the Local Government Association Corporate Parenting self-assessment tool. 3. Make recommendations on the future monitoring of the priority improvement areas identified in the annual corporate parenting report 2022-2023. 4. Consider the need for an updated Corporate Parenting Strategy. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is requested by the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report provides Scrutiny Committee with an overview of how the duties of the Council and partner agencies have been discharged in respect of meeting the needs of children in care and care leavers.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

- 1. Children's Services including*
- a) Social Care of Children;*
 - b) Safeguarding;*
 - c) Children's Health*

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

This report fully links to the Children in Care Promise as the report evaluates how well the Council has fulfilled its promise to Children in Care and Care Leavers during the period 2022 to 2023.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an evaluation of how effective services have been in meeting the needs of children in care and care leavers during the reporting year 2022 to 2023.

4.2 The Scrutiny Committee should scrutinise the report to determine whether all services directly provided for children and young people in care and care leavers have been delivered to a high standard and meet all statutory requirements.

4.3 The annual Corporate Parenting report 2022 – 2023 has been developed using the Local Government Association (LGA) effective Corporate Parenting self-evaluation tool. The tool can be used to self-assess against all the principles or can be adapted to support focus on specific areas.

4.4 The formal and informal Peterborough Corporate Parenting Committees have strived to ensure that children and young people in our care have had their needs understood and met throughout this period. Priority areas for service improvement for 2023-2024 have been included in the annual report to ensure that our children and young people receive excellent care to enable them to thrive and achieve their potential in all areas of life as they transition from children through to adult life.

4.5 The Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022 – 2023 is attached as an annex to the committee report as a reference alongside the annual corporate parenting report. This is because the corporate parenting strategy informed the delivery of services for children in care and care leavers during the period 2022-2023.

4.6 Further to the decoupling of Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, it is recommended that a revised Corporate Parenting Strategy for Peterborough is developed over the next reporting year, 2023-2024.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

1. The Economy & Inclusive Growth

- Environment (including a summary of the outcome of a completed Carbon Impact Assessment, to be submitted in full to the Transport and Environment Team) The report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.
- Homes and Workplaces
- Jobs and Money - providing higher education, apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers enabling them to secure employment and to reduce our NEET cohort.

2. Our Places & Communities

- Places and Safety (including any rural implications) We should consider ways to accelerate high quality and energy efficient affordable housing provision in and

around our City so that our Care Leavers are afforded the opportunity to be prioritised for local housing, considering they have protected characteristics.

- Lives and Work - Unemployment is particularly stark amongst our young population (aged 18-24) and we expect this demographic group to struggle finding well paid employment as the economy falters and as their skill set and experience do not match future job opportunities.
- Health and Wellbeing - many children and young people experienced a considerable negative impact during the first lockdown of 2020, with increased loneliness and social isolation. Our young people need access to mental health services in accordance with their need.

3. Prevention, Independence & Resilience

- Educations and Skills for All
- Adults
- Children - our children still lag the national average at every level of qualification, creating a possible wedge between supply and demand for those future higher skilled, higher income jobs – if not addressed, this trend is likely to create a productivity gap within our future City workforce, slowing down growth opportunities.

4. Sustainable Future City Council

- How we Work
- How we Serve
- How we Enable

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Detail any consultation which has taken place. Include consultation with Ward Councillors where relevant.
- 6.2 The Children in Care Participation lead, Shalina Chandoo noted that the information within the report has been shared with the Children in Care Council and Peterborough Care Leaders through the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee and their regular meetings.
- 6.3 Peterborough Care Leaders Chair noted: "A good corporate parent is passionate about making a difference, specifically about being proactive in children's rights rather than caps on services and costs. You can tell who is there to make a difference and who is there to just turn up."

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 To provide a robust overview of the impact of corporate parenting service delivery for children over the reporting year and to provide clear recommendations for improvement for the next year.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee reviews and provides comment on the contents of this report. This ensures that the committee influences the policies and decisions made by the Council and partner agencies involved in delivering services to children in care and care leavers.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

10.2 There is no legal implication. This report is an evaluation of corporate parenting service delivery over the reporting period 2022-2023.

Equalities Implications

10.3 This report provides information on how Children in Care and Care Leavers have been supported in an inclusive way to achieve their potential in all areas of need.

Other relevant implications

10.4 Does this report have any implications for Children In Care and Care Leavers?

10.5 The report provides an evaluation of how the Council has discharged its duties as a corporate parent in accordance with the Children in Care Promise and the Social Work Act 2017 which highlighted the seven principles of being a corporate parent.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 Corporate Parenting Score Card
Corporate parenting committee papers for the informal and formal committee meetings
Participation annual report
IRO annual report 2022-2023
CIC promise
Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2023
JSNA
Virtual School annual report 2022-2023
Annual Adoption report 2022-2023
Annual Fostering report 2022-2023
Annual Health report 2022-2023
PCC Market Position CiC
PCC Market Position addendum
The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (2010).

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 - CIC promise
Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2023