

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 approve the high level 2020-2022 Corporate Parenting Plan for referral to the Council's Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group and to Finance & Resources Committee in January in order that it can be considered with the other 2021/22 budget reports.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Corporate Parenting Action Plan

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 confers duties upon the local authority and other corporate parents to publish a corporate parenting plan, setting out our vision for Looked After children and young people, the outcomes we are trying to achieve, the actions needed to do this and the governance arrangements for monitoring progress.

The council has had a Corporate Parenting plan in place since 2012 and now needs to publish an updated version which reflects the Children's Plan and the recommendations from the Care Review, which is now being taken forward as 'The Promise'.

The revised high-level plan has been discussed with partners and reflects consultation with children and young people, particularly members of the Looked After Children's Champions Board, which has been meeting monthly for over two years.

Elected members are asked to approve the plan for submission to the Council's Member Officer Group for Corporate Parenting and submission to Full Council in March 2021.

3. Background

- 3.1 Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 outlines a range of duties for corporate parents across Scotland. Schedule 4 of the Act lists 24 individuals, organisations and groups who are corporate parents, which includes Local Authorities. These duties require corporate parents to uphold the rights and promote the wellbeing of Scotland's looked after children and care leavers.

4. Main Report

- 4.1 The council has had a corporate parenting plan in place since 2012.
- 4.2 The plan that is attached (Appendix 1) provides high level objectives that are consistent with the Children's Services Partnership's Children's Plan, reflect the key intentions of The Promise, and incorporate the views of children and young people.

Our intention is to make the plan meaningful to children and young people, with a small, yet crucial, number of measurable and deliverable outcomes.

- 4.3 The plan has been produced following discussion with elected members and partners at the October 2020 Corporate Parenting Members and Officers Group.
- 4.4 The plan is high level at this stage and reflects our ambitions as Corporate Parents. Detailed work will be undertaken on the multi-agency actions required to deliver the three outcomes and measures developed that are consistent with those used in the Children's Plan.
- 4.5 In order to progress the plan, and to support the corporate parenting work, annual funding of £145,000 is required. This will cover the costs of a Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator, two care experienced Participation Officers and an annual residential event for our care experienced young people. The service currently has £35,000 available within existing budgets to go towards the annual cost. Additional funding will need to be identified to enable this important work to be undertaken.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Progress on actions will be reviewed in the Council's Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group and the Children's Partnership.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The annual cost of this plan is £145,000. The service is currently delivered using external funding and the Council contributes £35,000. The end of external funding arrangements necessitates the need to identify additional funding of £110,000 to enable the existing service to continue and progress.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The council must publish the plan in order to comply with its duty under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- 7.2 The plan is designed to promote the interests of Looked After Children, to respect their rights and to encourage their full participation in the development of our corporate parenting approach through the Looked After Children's Champions Board.
- 7.3 There no impact on sustainability arising from the plan.
- 7.4 The plan reflects consultation since 2012 with children and young people through our Young People in Care Council and, more recently, the Looked After Children Champions Board and the work of our care experienced Participation Officers.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 N/A

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – High level Corporate Parenting Plan

City of Edinburgh Council Corporate Parenting Plan

Upholding our responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers

This plan is aligned to Edinburgh Children's Partnership Children's Service's Plan and echoes the vision of *Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential.*

BEST START IN LIFE

- A considered communication plan, including training on attachment and trauma, to ensure all partners are aware of and understand their corporate parenting responsibilities so that all children are loved, safe and respected
- Clear defined structures are in place between Social Work and Education to ensure strong partnership working thrives and has as its core, clear and defined points of contact
- A broad range of care placements are available to provide a loving, stable and caring experience for children and young people who cannot live within their own family networks

BRIDGING THE GAP

- Review the work of and develop a sustainable model for the Champion's Board including the coordination and participation capacity.
- Clear monitoring and understanding of the progress and achievement of all looked after children including robust attendance processes and procedures which are monitored to increase the number of children engaging in learning
- Partners work together to guarantee that education needs are identified and met through the CYP Planning process and **young people have access to safe affordable housing options**

BE EVERYTHING YOU CAN BE

- Praise and recognition is celebrated. Corporate Parenting week publicises and highlights achievements, successes and outcomes
- Extend and expand opportunities, pathways and transition programmes to achieve positive destinations for those in S4 and above including further commitment to Edinburgh being a Family Firm Employer
- Develop a comprehensive data set to gather and analyse information on the profile and wellbeing of Edinburgh's looked after children. Children and young people receive support to understand and make sense of their own life story and their treasured memories are stored safely and in way they can access.

Underpinning Principles

- We recognise that each service makes a valuable contribution to ensuring better outcomes, and that close and effective working relationships are crucial
- We are committed to placing children and young people at the centre of our practice through consultation, involvement in decision making and advocacy
- The actions in the Corporate Parenting Plan are monitored by the Council's Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group