

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 1st February 2018

Wards: All wards

Subject: Annual Corporate Parenting Report 2016-17

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families Department

Lead member: Cllr Katy Neep, Cabinet Member for Children Services

Contact officer: Mark Gwynne, Interim Head of Policy, Planning and Performance

Recommendations:

A. Members of the panel to discuss and comment on the contents of the report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The report provides members of the panel with an overview of how the role of corporate parent has been exercised in order to ensure all our young people reach their potential, develop into independent, self-confident adults and enjoy their place in society.

2 DETAILS

2.1 The report presents an annual update on what is going well, the key challenges and the actions that we will take to address these challenges. This report presents activity and performance data from 2016-17 and identifies the priorities for the year ahead.

- We continue to have a LAC population that has a high proportion of adolescent young people. The report sets out that whilst a high number of these are unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, factors such as housing and anti-social behaviour are also impacting.
- The improvement planning in place in our 14+ Team has seen a significant impact in outcomes for our care leavers in terms of ETE and housing. We are also in touch with a greater number of care leavers and are able to evidence the benefits of relationship based practice.
- Our fostering recruitment campaign has been successful, but we are still facing a challenge to recruit carers for our adolescent cohort.
- We have seen an improvement in children's participation in their reviews and the IRO Team is now working to embed a child centred model for LAC Reviews.
- Placement stability has seen significant improvement over the last year, and the development of the LAC Permanence Team has meant that our stable LAC now have the attention of a focused team who are working hard to develop relationships with children, carers and parents.
- Adoption performance continues to be a strength in terms of clear planning and management oversight of cases. As a result of embedded processes adoption placements are achieved in a timely manner.

- The CSC CAMH Team is now well embedded in the service and offering an excellent service to children, young people, carers and practitioners
- Good progress has been made to ensure that the voice of the child in care is heard, with the development of the LAC and Care Leaver Pledge, the Care Leavers Survey.

2.2 The report sets out the four priorities underway for 2017/18. Progress against these will be reported upon in next year's update. These priorities are:

- Develop the LAC and Care Leavers Strategies for 2018-21
- Enhancement of the Local Offer for Care Leavers
- Reinvigoration of Children in Care Council
- For children whose care plan is long term foster care, priority will be given to matching children with in house foster carers.

3. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 No specific implications from this report.

4. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No specific implications from this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No specific implications from this report

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No specific implications from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No specific implications from this report.

8. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

8.1 Appendix 1 - Annual Corporate Parenting Report 2016-2017

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None