

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Council

Date of meeting: 12 December 2024

Title: Corporate Parenting Charter

Purpose of the report: The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's agreement to progress the adoption of the Corporate Parenting Charter through the governance journey.

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

Introduction

Corporate parenting describes the collective responsibility of all local authority officers, commissioners and Elected Members to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of children and young people looked after.

However, supporting children looked after, sometimes referred to as care-experienced children and young people, through their childhoods and as they leave care should be the responsibility of all public sector bodies.

The Local Authority is always the lead corporate parent and is expected to wholeheartedly promote and champion the rights of these children and young people.

The Ceredigion Corporate Parenting Group has agreed to formally adopt the Corporate Parenting Charter at the last meeting which took place on 15 October 2024. The Charter was subsequently recommended by Cabinet for approval by Council during its meeting held on 3 December 2024.

The Charter has eleven key principles that set out the principles that promote the following for children looked after to receive. In summary these include:

- Equality
- Stable lives and placements
- Lives free from stigma
- Support good education, employment and training
- Promote ambition to achieve
- Lifelong wellbeing
- Develop effective services to meet the needs of this group of children and young people with their participation wherever possible
- Contribute to society in a meaningful way

Current Situation

Ceredigion County Council is not currently signed up to the Corporate Parenting Charter.

The full details of the Corporate Parenting Charter are set out in the accompanying documents:

Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales (Appendix 1)

The Principles of Corporate Parenting (Appendix 2)

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

Yes – see appendix 3.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: No policy change

Collaboration: No policy change

Involvement: No policy change

Prevention: No policy change

Integration: No policy change

Recommendation(s):

That Council adopt the Corporate Parenting Charter.

Reasons for decision:

To ensure that all officers, commissioners, Elected Members and partners of the local authority understand their corporate parenting responsibilities. We want to deliver sensitive, high-quality services that promote fairness and equity for looked after children and care leavers. We want these children to have all the life opportunities we would have for our own children. This group of people need to grow up without stigma.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 06.11.24

Policy Framework:

Care Planning, Placement and Care Review (Wales) Regulations 2015 (Children looked after)

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Creating caring and healthy communities

Finance and Procurement implications:

N/A

Legal Implications:

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

Staffing implications:

Raising awareness across the workforce

Property / asset implications:

N/A

Risk(s):

None identified

Statutory Powers:

Duty to be responsible corporate parents and raise awareness on this issue.

Background Papers:

First report on this matter.

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales

Appendix 2- The Principles of Corporate Parenting

Appendix 3- Integrated Impact Assessment

Corporate Lead Officer:

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

Reporting Officer:

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

Date:

04.12.2024