

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: For noting

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 02 August 2022

TITLE	Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2021-2022		
Ward(s)	All wards		
Author: Corporate Parenting Panel Members supported by Amanda Braund and Liz Small	Job title: Elected Members, Through Care Service Manager and Corporate Parenting Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans, Executive Director People		
Proposal origin: Councillor			
Decision maker: For noting Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For Cabinet to note the progress of the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the actions for next year as part of the panel’s commitment to deliver better outcomes for children in care and care leavers.2. This report is a call to all elected members to champion children in care and care leavers at every opportunity.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Corporate Parenting Panel is established as a panel of Full Council to ensure that the City Council effectively discharges its statutory duties as corporate parent for children in care and care leavers, and that the Council and its partners are ambitious for children and young people in its care.2. The Corporate Parenting Panel has a responsibility to report to Full Council on an annual basis as to how well the city is fulfilling its corporate parenting responsibility, see Appendix A. This report is for Cabinet to note the contents of the Annual Report ahead of consideration at Full Council.3. The report is compiled using reports by senior officers and feedback from children and young people shared with the panel over the reporting period.4. Bristol prides itself on being strong corporate parents striving for the very best for our children in care and care leavers. We’ve continued to have strong support from all political parties to achieve the very best for our children. In Bristol we care for almost 700 children, most of whom live with foster families. Most of our children in care are settled in homes and experience good stability; only 8% of our children experience three or more moves within their first year in care compared to the national average (10%) and our statistical neighbours (12%). Children cared for in a home continuously for two and a half years and over was reported at 73%. This is again above the national average and our statistical neighbours (70%). Although we show good performance in this area in comparison to others it is also a key area of improvement against a challenging landscape.5. Bristol like many local authorities is experiencing a significant pressure and shortfall regarding the number of available homes for our children in all settings including in-house foster carers, independent fostering agencies and children’s homes, as well as access to welfare secure provision for our most complex children.			

The inadequacies in the placement market and rising profit margins places a significant strain on the local authority budget.

- The panel have overseen the work from the operational staff to maintain accountability and to offer support. We have seen significant work within the fostering teams to recruit and retain a range of loving carers, investment into children's homes to provide stable and supportive environments, new and innovative practice, and a relentless drive for improvement within the service.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

- Note the contents of the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report April 2021 – March 2022.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

Theme 1: Children and Young People: A city where every child gets the best start in life, whatever circumstances they were born into.

City Benefits:

- Reduce inequality in long-term health and wellbeing outcomes for children in care and care leavers
- Promote equality of opportunity in education, housing and leisure
- Increase support for the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2023
- Compliance with our statutory duties and guidance

Consultation Details: Member consultation

Background Documents:

[Corporate Parenting Strategy 21 23](#)

[Corporate parenting resource pack | Local Government Association](#)

[Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Revenue Cost	£N/A	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: This report is for Cabinet to note the progress of the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report which is for noting.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt 19 July 2022

2. Legal Advice: There are no direct legal implications in this report. The report will assist Cabinet Members to be assured that the Council is complying with statutory corporate parenting duties in respect of Children and Young People in its care and Care leavers as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and statutory guidance.

Legal Team Leader Nancy Rollason, Head of Service Legal, 8 July 2022.

3. Implications on IT: No implications on IT in regards to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Gavin Arbuckle, Head of Service Improvement and Performance, 8 July 2022

4. HR Advice: The report is to inform full council of our progress in fulfilling our role as corporate parent. There are no significant HR implications arising from this report.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, HR Strategic People Partner, 5 April 2022

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans,	22 nd June 2022
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Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	28 th June 2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	25 th July 2022

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021-2022.	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO