

# Children's Scrutiny Commission

## November 21<sup>st</sup> 2016



**Report of:** John Readman- Strategic Director People  
Hilary Brooks – Service Director Children and Families, Care and Support

**Title:** Corporate Parenting Report 2016

**Ward:** Citywide

**Officer Presenting Report:** Ann James – Head of Service, Children in Care and Care Leavers

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### Recommendation

- That Children's Services Scrutiny Commission, review the Corporate Parenting Report 2016 and support the actions identified to further promote good outcomes for children in care and care leavers in 2017.
- That progress and challenges are noted.
- That Scrutiny note the report will progress to be presented at Full Council in January 2017 and that Councillors, in exercising the responsibilities of office, take action to provide opportunities that support children in care and care leavers and promote the achievement of good outcomes.

### Summary

In October 2015 Bristol launched its new Corporate Parenting Strategy and renewed its Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers. The Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2016 sets out progress and key areas of work aimed at delivering on the promises made in the Pledge and achieving improved outcomes for children in care and care leavers. It also sets out priorities for the year ahead, including:

- Keeping children and young people's voices at the centre of service development and delivery
- Tackling inequality and improving outcomes by focussing on improving educational attainment and access to employment and training opportunities
- Taking action to support the physical and emotional health and well-being of children in care and care leavers
- Supporting social workers and foster carers to meet the challenge of delivering an excellent service

This work is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Panel which is chaired by Councillor Clare Champion-Smith, Cabinet Member for People and comprises councillors, senior council officers and partner agencies.

**The significant issues in the report are:**

- The council has made progress in 2016 against the promises made in the Pledge (see appendix 1 for indicators on or above target)
- Challenges remain, specifically, the need to improve health and educational outcomes for children in care, to continue to improve the percentage of care leavers in education, training and employment, to reduce offending and improve completion of life story work by reducing social work caseloads and facilitating opportunities for direct work.
- Building on firm foundations, work continues to improve the number, range and quality of local foster and other care placements. Specifically, the fantastic work of Bristol’s foster carers was recognised and rewarded at an award ceremony in October 2016, and with a new career structure and payment scheme launched earlier in the year.
- With the support of a focussed improvement plan and strengthened governance arrangements outcomes for care leavers have improved and in 2017, a new accommodation pathway will be launched.
- The views of children and young people have helped shape our work over the past year and will continue to do so in the forthcoming year. Their voice has been strengthened, most notably by the establishment of a partnership with Barnardo’s to deliver a care leavers participation group and strategy.

**Policy**

1. This report provides an update on Bristol’s delivery of its Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers. It also reports progress against corporate parenting actions as identified in the Children’s Services Improvement Plan and sets Corporate Parenting Panel Priorities in support of continuous improvement for 2017.

**Consultation**

2. **Internal**  
Corporate Parenting Panel  
Directorate, Extended and Senior Leadership Teams.
3. **External**  
Not applicable

**Context**

4. Please see the attached Corporate Parenting Report 2016. This report will be presented to Full Council in January 2017 to highlight the important work of councillors and officers as corporate parents to the city’s 675 children in care and 405 care leavers.

**Proposal**

5. Not applicable

## Other Options Considered

6. Not applicable

## Risk Assessment

7. Not applicable

## Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 8b) < Insert a note on how the public sector equality duties are relevant to the proposals and how these duties have been taken into account in developing the proposals. Where an equality impact assessment has been undertaken, summarise its findings here and provide link to full document, or include the equality impact assessment as an appendix. Where no equality impact assessment has been undertaken, give reasons why not>.

## Legal and Resource Implications

**Legal**

Not applicable

**(Legal advice provided by <Insert name and job title>)**

**Financial**

**(a) Revenue**

Not applicable

**(b) Capital**

Not applicable

**(Financial advice provided by <Insert name and job title>)**

**Land**

Not applicable

**Personnel**

Not applicable

**(Personnel advice provided by <Insert name and job title>)**

**Appendices:**

Corporate Parenting Report 2016

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**

As detailed throughout the report