

**Report of the Executive Director Core Services,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on Tuesday 30th October 2018**

**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's (BMB) Corporate Parenting Panel
Annual Report 2017-18 – Cover Report**

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The attached report 'Item 5b' is an annual update of the work of the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP). The role of the CPP is to ensure that BMB, through its elected members, officers, carers and partner agencies fulfils its corporate parenting role. This means providing commitment and leadership to 'being there' for children in care and care leavers as well as monitoring performance in terms of improving outcomes.
- 1.2 All Elected Members have a responsibility as Corporate Parents to ensure that every child at the edge of care, in care or who has left care, is given the opportunity to reach the best possible outcome they can. They should act as 'pushy parents', with the litmus test being "Would this be good enough for my child or me if I was a child?". This year, all Elected Members were invited to the OSC meeting to discuss both the Adults' and Children's Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports, which provided them with opportunity to challenge what is being done to protect the most vulnerable people in the borough.
- 1.3 As a result of Corporate Parenting responsibilities, it was agreed at the OSC meeting on 10th February 2015 that the CPP Annual Report should be brought to the OSC on an annual basis, enabling challenge to be provided by Members who are not directly involved with the CPP.
- 1.4 National data shows that children who are in care are one of the lowest performing groups in terms of educational outcomes. They also have poorer employment prospects and health outcomes than the general population. Research indicates that there are a number of factors which need to be considered to maximise positive outcomes for children in care, some of which include placement stability, interventions being tailored to the characteristics and experiences of the individual and the need for professionals to have a good understanding of children's social, emotional, mental health and educational needs.
- 1.5 It is therefore essential that the quality of services for our children and young people at the edge of care, in care, or who have left care, are monitored and challenged. The attached Annual Report outlines the work of the CPP during 2017-18 (Item 5b) including:
- The responsibilities and statutory duties of the Council to protect children
 - The role and responsibilities of Councillors as Corporate Parents
 - The Barnsley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care
 - Corporate Parenting in Barnsley, including membership, progress and areas covered by the CPP during 2017-18
 - Governance arrangements
 - Children in Care Council

- Priorities for the CPP during 2018-19
- Performance information

2.0 Invited Witnesses

2.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting:

- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People, BMBC
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director - Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children, BMBC
- Andrea Scholey, Named Nurse Children in Care, 0-19 Service, BMBC
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding)
- Barnsley Council Elected Members on the CPP

3.0 Possible Areas for Discussion

3.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What are the success stories that the CPP has influenced during 2017-18?
- To what extent are partners engaged in the work of the panel and contribute to improving outcomes for our young people?
- How do you know whether the work of the Panel is having a direct, positive impact upon the lives of children in care (CiC) and care leavers?
- How many of the 'Top Ten' improvements recommended by the Care4Us Council have been successfully implemented, and what evidence do you have of the difference they have they made to the lives of CiC?
- Which of the priorities for the coming year would impact upon the greatest number of children?
- Which areas of good practice could be replicated in other areas for a 'quick win'?
- What potential obstacles do you foresee that may prevent the Panel from achieving its priorities and fulfilling its responsibilities for 2018-19 and how do you plan to overcome them?
- What positive outcomes do you anticipate from the introduction of Personal Advisors?
- How do you ensure that the Panel is constantly fit for purpose?
- How can Members not involved directly in the meetings, most effectively support the work of the CPP and our children in care?

4.0 Background Papers and Links

- Item 5b (attached) – Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2017-18

- Virtual Headteacher's Report March 2018:
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38992/Appendix%201%20Annex%201.pdf>
- 2017/18 Key Data Summary (Statistical First Release (SFR)):
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38993/Appendix%201%20Annex%202.pdf>
- Child Protection in England: Legislation, Policy and Guidance:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/england/legislation-policy-guidance/>

5.0 Glossary

ADM	Agency Decision Maker
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
BSCB	Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board
CAFCASS	Children & Family Court Advisory & Support Service
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
CiC	Children in Care
CPP	Corporate Parenting Panel
CPR	Child Permanence Reports
CSIF	Continuous Service Improvement Framework
DCS	Director of Children's Services
EET	Education, Employment & Training
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officers
LAC	Looked After Children
LAPSO	Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PAs	Personal Advisors
PAQA	Performance & Quality Assurance
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PI	Performance Indicator
SDQs	Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability
SFR	Statistical First Release
SWYPFT	South-West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
TEG	Trust Executive Group
TPEP	Termly Personal Education Plan
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

6.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer
22nd October 2018