

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 23 July 2019

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018/2020

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor Cordelia Law, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cordelia.law@torbay.gov.uk

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 The Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2018-2020 was approved by the Elected Mayor in October 2018 with the Director of Children's Services authorised to make any final changes. One of the main final changes which was needed was the completion of the Action Plan attached to the Strategy.
- 1.2 Following the change in governance arrangements since May 2019, it is appropriate that the new Cabinet confirm the Strategy and the Action Plan which has now been completed.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

- 2.1 Agreement of the Strategy will mean that the Council has clarity around the work that it commits to do to ensure good outcomes for the children that the Council looks after.
 - 2.2 There are no additional financial commitments associated with the recommendation.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2020 set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

3.2 That the Corporate Parenting Board ensure that the Strategy is implemented and seek assurance that outcomes for our Children Looked After are improved.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2020.

Background Documents

None

Section 1: Background Information

1.	<p>What is the proposal / issue?</p> <p>The previously agreed Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting Strategy has been updated to include a completed Action Plan. The new administration now need to confirm the complete Strategy and task the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure that it is implemented.</p>
2.	<p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>The Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2018-2020 was approved by the Elected Mayor in October 2018 with the Director of Children's Services authorised to make any final changes. One of the main final changes which was needed was the completion of the Action Plan attached to the Strategy.</p> <p>Following the change in governance arrangements since May 2019, it is appropriate that the new Cabinet confirm the Strategy and the Action Plan which has now been completed.</p>
3.	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>The entire Strategy could have been revised. However, it has been reviewed and it is still considered to be an appropriate Strategy. It builds on Torbay's commitment to multi-agency working knowing that the best outcomes for children looked after and care leavers will be achieved through effective partnership working across the system.</p> <p>The Ofsted Inspection in July 2018 recognised some improvements in the services for children in care and care leavers. The improvement of the Council's delivery of its Corporate Parenting Duty was also recognised but there continues to be areas that are not considered adequate. The proposed Strategy seeks to address these areas.</p>
4.	<p>What is the relationship with the priorities within the Partnership Memorandum and the Council's Principles?</p> <p>The Strategy aims to ensure that our Children Looked After and care leavers thrive – that they reach their full potential and have the opportunities that good parents afford their children.</p> <p>The Strategy seeks to achieve these outcomes through taking an integrated and joined up approach.</p>

5.	<p>How does this proposal/issue contribute towards the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents?</p> <p>The Strategy sets out the framework by which the Council will meet its responsibilities as corporate parents.</p>
6.	<p>How does this proposal/issue tackle poverty, deprivation and vulnerability?</p> <p>Meeting the needs of our children in care and improving their outcomes includes addressing all these aspects of their lives.</p>
7.	<p>How does the proposal/issue impact on people with learning disabilities?</p> <p>All children in care have access to the input of the virtual school.</p>
8.	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with? How will the Council engage with the community? How can the Council empower the community?</p> <p>The development of the Strategy took place in consultation with the Council's partner organisations and takes account of the views of some of our Children Looked After (via the Children in Care Club). This took place ahead of the original agreement of the Strategy in October 2018.</p> <p>Moving forward, the Council will be seeking to ensure that our role as Corporate Parents is understood within the wider community. We will be seeking to work more closely with the community to ensure better outcomes for our Children Looked After. In addition, we need to ensure that we engage effectively with our Children Looked After.</p>

Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

9.	What are the financial and legal implications? There are no specific financial or legal implications around agreeing a Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting Strategy.
10.	What are the risks? The risk of not agreeing the Strategy is that, as an organisation, we would not be clear about the issues which need to be tackled and the outcomes that we are seeking to achieve.
11.	Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012 Not applicable.
12.	What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal? All work is informed by the JSNA Key Performance Indicators and evidence based practice e.g. Signs of Safety.
13.	What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out? The Strategy takes account of the Council's pledge to its children and young people, including its Children Looked After. This pledge was developed with the children and young people of Torbay.
14.	Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions Not applicable.

Equality Impacts

17.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
	Older or younger people	The Strategy will have a positive impact on those young people who are Looked After by the Council.		
	People with caring Responsibilities			
	People with a disability			
	Women or men			
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			
	People who are transgendered			
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			

	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			
16	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)			
17	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)			