



*Although a formal committee of the city council, the Health & Wellbeing Board has a remit which includes matters relating to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Local Safeguarding Board for Children and Adults as well as Healthwatch. Papers come from a variety of sources. The format for Health & Wellbeing Board papers is consequently different from papers submitted to the city council for exclusive city council business.*

## **1. Title of Paper : Corporate Parenting Strategy**

- 1.1. The contents of this paper can be shared with the general public.
- 1.2 This paper is for the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.
- 1.3 Author of the Paper and contact details: Helen Gulvin – Assistant Director of Children’s Services – Brighton & Hove City Council, [helen.gulvin@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:helen.gulvin@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk)

## **2. Summary**

This paper is the final version of the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2016-19 which is presented for approval.

Work was undertaken to revise the existing Corporate Parenting Strategy 2013-16. As a result the revised draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-19 was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016, following a 3 month consultation process with looked after children, key partners and Members.



### **3. Decisions, recommendations and any options**

- 3.1 This paper is the final version of the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2016-19 which is presented for approval.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Board approves the Strategy and supports the recommendations and declarations of intent contained within.
- 3.3 That the Board agree to adopt the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-19 and for this to be disseminated and circulated across Brighton & Hove.

### **4. Relevant information**

An overview of the Corporate Parenting Strategy is set out at page 16 of the attached document and details our declarations of intent.

The purpose of this strategy is to outline a vision of our role as corporate parents and to ensure that we are all working together to achieve common goals and ambitions for our children and young people in care to Brighton and Hove City Council and care leavers. As partner agencies, we recognise that the best outcomes for children looked after and care leavers can only be achieved through effective partnership working.

The strategy has been developed using information from a range of sources to ensure that it reflects what is most important to children looked after and care leavers in Brighton & Hove. This included the following;

- Consultation with children looked after via 'Our Choice' – 3 days of activities
- Feedback questionnaires with children attending the Children in Care Council
- Workshops with corporate parents

This strategy sits alongside our Pledge to children looked after and care leavers which outlines to children and young people our commitments to them, and the support they can expect from us.

The Brighton & Hove Pledge is a set of promises that set out the support and care we will provide to children looked after and those preparing to leave care. It has been written with our Children in Care Council and the



format of the two age-related pledges has been designed by a young person who has left care.

The Pledge (outlined at page 18-19 of the Strategy) sets 6 key statements/pledges demonstrating the commitment of councillors and staff to enable children in care to achieve to the best of their ability and comparable to their peer group. We want all of our children to live full, active lives and become confident individuals, responsible citizens and contributors These Pledges are:

1. We will involve you in making choices and decisions about you
2. We will keep you safe
3. Your Health and Activities
4. Your Education, Employment and training
5. Where you live
6. Preparation for the Future.

Our Vision is set out at Page 17 of the strategy and outlines that: “Brighton and Hove should be the best place in the country for children and young people to grow up. We want to ensure all children and young people have the best possible start in life, so that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever that may be”.

“Love us like your family, love us like we are your own” is a key message from our looked after children.

Brighton & Hove is committed to being an effective, caring, and ambitious corporate parent. We must care *about* our children in care, not just *for* them, and ensure the same standard of care as any good parent. We will ensure that children and young people feel safe and secure, have stability in their lives and that we help them to achieve their full potential by supporting them in fulfilling their ambitions and aspirations.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy requires all partners to own what their organisation brings to the table and what is committed to provide for Children In Care(CIC) - this in the context of all organisations being aspirational for CIC and those being supported as a young adult under the terminology of ‘ Leaving Care’. This involves a commitment by agencies to deliver the best services we can for our Children in Care and for each agency to detail what this looks like.

The Final Page of the Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the following key things we have agreed to do in 2016-19 :

2016-17



- **Care Leavers Trust:** A fund is being established to support young people when they leave care at the age of 18 to increase the opportunities available to them. This will bring together charitable donations from a range of individuals and businesses. All young people leaving care will be able to apply to the fund. Any money awarded will be in addition to the money and grants that already exists for care leavers.
- **Social Work Profiles:** As part of the relationship based social work, all workers will exchange a 'profile' of themselves with children and families. The social work profile will include personal as well as professional information about the social worker. The young person will also complete their own profile which they can exchange with their social worker.
- **Provide an additional mental health resource** within social work pods to support young people, carers and social workers and to link with mainstream mental health services.

2017-18

- **The Children in Care Council** will be actively involved in the recruitment and training of foster carers.
- **Increase the visibility of children in care and care leavers** by putting anonymised case summaries and video clips of their achievements on the BHCC internal website, the Wave.
- **Launch the Asdan Independent Living Skills Programme** with children looked after from the age of 16
- **Corporate Parenting Mentors** We will link senior officers with children looked after and care leavers to enable the development of their aspirations and interests in future employment options and developing a strategic partnership with Brighton and Hove Connected.

2018-19

- **Develop a Training Module for Managers** in BHCC to support care leavers employed in apprenticeships.
- **Foster carers to develop profiles** that young people can see before they move to the placement.
- **Care Leaver Mentoring Scheme** for younger children looked after.

## 5. Important considerations and implications

Legal:



- 5.1 Corporate Parenting describes the responsibilities that all elected members and employees of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards the children and young people in the care of the local authority

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 places a statutory duty on all parts of a local authority to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children and young people in care and a duty on other partners and agencies to co-operate in fulfilling that duty

The strategy sets out the ways in which the local authority and other agencies can meet their statutory and ethical obligations and pledges to some of the most vulnerable children in the city, for whom the state by way of the local authority has adopted legal responsibility in a role as corporate parent.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 11.1.17

Finance:

- 5.2 There are significant financial pressures on services for Children in Care and Social Work that will need to be closely monitored going forwards to ensure that the Corporate Parenting Strategy can be met from within existing financial resources.

Finance Officer consulted: Louise Hoten Date:11.1.17

- 5.3 Equalities :

There are no specific equalities issues for the Health & Wellbeing board in relation to this report regarding the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Sustainability:

- 5.4 There are no specific Sustainability issues for the Health & Wellbeing board in relation to this report regarding the Corporate Parenting Strategy.



Health, social care, children's services and public health:

5.5 Given the central focus of the Corporate Parenting Strategy on health and social care this is already covered within the paper.

## **6. Supporting documents and information**

6.1 Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy (attached).

