

# Report of the Deputy Director of Children's Social Care to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on Wednesday 8 March 2017.

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## Subject:

Improving the Support for Young People in Care – Our Role in Corporate Parenting.

## Summary statement:

The attached draft report contains the findings and recommendations from the Review.

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(Children's Social Care)  
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## Portfolio:

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## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Bradford Councils Future Leaders Programme 2016, was designed to contribute to the Council's talent management approach. It also forms part of a wider strategy that seeks to embed leadership skills, mindsets and behaviours across the organisation.
- 1.2 We, as part of Bradford Councils Future Leaders Programme, expressed an interest to work with the Children's Services Department.
- 1.3 We were asked by the Strategic Director for Children's Services, to review into improving the support that is being provided for Looked After Children, across the District.
- 1.4 The draft report is attached as **Appendix 1**.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The key aims of this review included:
  - How do we support young children in care?
  - What is our understanding?
  - What is the current landscape?
  - What do we currently deliver and commission?

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Senior Council Officers, Councillors and Looked After Children were engaged with as part of this review and the consultations highlighted a number of key findings and recommendations. A common theme that was clearly visible throughout our discussions was the need for there to be a better understanding of Bradford Council, in its role as a Corporate Parent. Subsequently, recommendations were made in the following areas:
  - Developing a multi-agency approach to supporting Looked After Children;
  - Creating a robust and clear Communications Plan, which also focuses on our role as a Corporate Parent;
  - Working more closely with the Children in Care Council, in further improve the support provided;
  - All Council Departments engaging more with Looked After Children;
  - Councillor induction training to include expectations around the role of being a Corporate Parent;
  - Providing greater opportunities to Looked After Children through Bradford Councils apprenticeship scheme.

## **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

There are no financial issues arising from this report.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

Improving the support for young people in care and our role in Corporate Parenting is key priority for Bradford Council.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

Looked After Children are one of the protected characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications arising from this review.

### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

There are no greenhouse gas emissions impacts arising from this review.

### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

There will be some Community Safety implications, for Looked After Children.

### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

None.

### **7.6 TRADE UNION**

There are no Trade Union Implications.

### **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

There are Looked After Children across the District, therefore wards will be affected.

### **7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

Not applicable.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

There are no, not for publication documents.

## **9. OPTIONS**

In considering how to progress this issue the Corporate Parenting Panel may wish to:

- Adopt or amend the findings and recommendations contained within the draft report;
- Forward their recommendations to the Executive, Council and / or other appropriate bodies/Committees, such as the Children's Trust Board.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 The view of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested in relation to the findings and recommendations contained in the Draft Report.

10.2 That the Corporate Parenting Panel adopt the findings and recommendations contained within the draft Report.

## **11. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Draft Report – Improving the Support for Young People in Care/Care Leavers

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- The Council Plan.
- The District Plan.