

Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 9 September 2019

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Subject: Department of Place Corporate Parenting Report

Summary statement:

The Department of Place provides support and activities for Looked After Children and young people across a wide range of services. This report provides information on this work and seeks feedback from Panel members on areas for further development.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director, Place

Report Contact: Steve Hartley
Phone: (01274) 431131
E-mail steve.hartley@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio:
Children & Families

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Department of Place provides support and activities for Looked After Children and young people across a wide range of services. This report provides information on this work and seeks feedback from Panel members on areas for further development.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Activities are presented below by Assistant Director area as both specific work relating to Looked after Children and young people and general provision affecting all children including Looked after Children and young people.

2.1 Economic Development and Housing

Joint working arrangements in place with Children's Services to ensure young people pathways are clear and that Looked After Children are supported effectively.

- The revised Social Housing Allocations 2017 policy places young people leaving care in the top priority band as too are foster carers and adopters (previous policy placed them in the second band)
- Work with Children's Services to explore use of council new build home to accommodate children in care – Children's Sufficiency Project

General provision affecting all children

- Close working with Adults and Children's Services to ensure appropriate support provision is developed and commissioned particularly Housing Related Support
- Close working arrangements and protocols with Bradford Nightstop
- Provision of adaptations for children and young people with disabilities also supports their safety and stability in their home lives, as adaptations will allow them and/or their carers to continue living in their home.

2.2 Neighbourhood and Customer Services

Youth Service provides targeted and universal open access provision to support the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of young people across the district.

- Facilitated by the Youth Service, Looked After Children (LAC) have been actively engaged in the recent round of Essential Life Skills grants both in awarding grants and in receipt of grants in the different constituency areas.
- Breaking the Cycle team are actively working 1-1 with some LAC in the work around exploitation and serious organised crime.
- Youth Workers have made visits to most of the children's homes to work directly with young people who are LAC and care staff to do awareness raising around serious organised crime, gangs, and general criminality.
- Looked After Children participated in the recent Dragon boat Festival as part of the Youth Day.
- Looked After Children have been active participants in the recent Youth Summits that have taken place in constituency areas, building on the work of the Health Foundation

- Small numbers of LAC young people have worked as volunteers with the Youth Service at the Bradford Festival
- A number of young people who are LAC also visit open access provision.

General provision affecting all children

- The Parks Service maintains parks, recreation grounds and children's play areas, providing a conducive environment for formal and informal play activities.
- Street Cleansing and Council Wardens work to create a safe and clean environment, promoting civic pride and participation in community wellbeing initiatives.
- Domestic abuse and ASB services support vulnerable families and individuals and supports action that helps people to be safe and feel safe.

2.3 Sport and Culture

- Free gym membership to the Council's Clubactive sites is available to looked after young people. The current scheme is available to young people leaving care aged 16 plus. The Scheme will shortly be extended to include a companion to accompany the young person, and will also extend to junior gym membership for looked after young people of 14-16 years of age.
- Adventure Activities Development Team work with Looked after Children and Care Leavers.
- Occasional Adventure bookings from care homes or specific groups of Looked after Children
- Looked After Children access our Multi Adventure and Holiday Courses
- A team from Leaving Care entered the Dragon Boat competition and trained at Doe Park
- We have taken the Climbing Tower to the annual Care Leavers event for several years
- We loan waterproofs, boots, sleeping bags to Looked After Children going on residential visits
- BASECAMPS are promoted to LAC Services and the Sports Development Unit liaise directly with LAC staff to facilitate bookings
- Bradford Aquatics put looked after children in foster homes or care homes are placed immediately or put to the top of the waiting list
- Sports Development have accommodated LAC young people as volunteers working on sports activity sessions to improve employability.
- Bradford Theatres encourage access to the arts for looked after children and young people via a ticketing scheme offering them (and their foster families if applicable) free or greatly reduced price tickets to productions at the Alhambra Theatre and St George's Hall (subject to producer agreement and availability.)

- Volunteering opportunities at St George's Hall and work experience opportunities at The Alhambra Theatre.

General provision affecting all children

- Develop Equipped Play Area Strategy
- Start Programme, RSC Learning Performance Network, RSC Associates Schools Programme & RSC Associate Theatre Partner
- City of Film supports the delivery of film literacy across schools in the district to improve general engagement in learning and increased levels of literacy more specifically. Family Film Festival on Big Screen
- Museums & Galleries
- All our 4 museums: Cartwright Hall, Cliffe Castle, Bradford Industrial Museum and Bolling Hall have free family areas, where everyone can play read and draw as well as spaces for eating packed lunches. Cartwright Hall has a new Family Friendly Gallery (gallery 5) which invites everyone to enjoy, explore and share ideas. Bradford Industrial Museum are working with 'Compassion for Mums Well-being', Providing mums with children some assistance and quiet spaces within the galleries
- Child-led learning is promoted in the schools offer and especially in the Art & Science of Noticing; these ideas then inform new programmes and displays.
- Bradford's Cultural Offer is promoted in the museums to Families and Schools of the District. Our free well established Family offer at weekends and during the school holidays is fun, creative and well supported. We also use these activities to support district wide events such as Bradford Children's Festival in City Park, and events in collaboration with Parks like Explore Keighley June 2019.
- Cartwright Hall host a regular Young Open exhibition, with an open entry to all 0-16 year olds from the District. Other displays of children's work take place for specific projects to celebration good work. Lilycroft Primary School's work on the significant local individual Miriam Lord is presently exhibited in the learning room at Cartwright Hall. Family display of stories took place in Cliffe Castle Museum & Park for families to support the summer reading challenge in 2018 – a link with Bradford Libraries. Bolling Hall gets regularly transformed by their local school, Bowling Park into a film set for Jumanji or Alice in Wonderland, Hansel & Gretel or a Knight School.
- We run a series of Take Over Days in our Museums where children from both primary & secondary schools learn about the workings of our buildings. In addition a number of home educated groups also work with us. We also offer support work placements

2.4 Planning Transport and Highways

- Lead in creating safe and healthy places across the district.
- To encourage care leavers and young people to take up apprenticeships which would include a college education and job opportunities

General provision affecting all children

- Design and deliver safer roads across the district.
- Building control ensures safe buildings for children across the district.
- Develop and implement Planning policies that improve the lives of children.
- Contribute to an air quality plan that improves the health of children.
- Provide more quicker and attractive bus routes using clear air zone emission compliant buses
- Upgrade active travel (cycling and walking) infrastructure and provide active travel planning support for healthier lifestyles
- Provide blue and green infrastructure in development to improve the quality of life and health of children.
- Provide access to countryside, biodiversity and recreation through the work of Countryside Services and the Rights of Way Team.
- Provide opportunities for children to cycle and walk across the District.

2.5 Waste, Fleet and Transport Services

General provision affecting all children

- The Waste Service contributes to a safe and clean environment engendering civic pride and community well-being.
- PTS provides an efficient and safe system of transportation to vulnerable children and adults which enhances their quality of life.
- The Licensing Service through its statutory functions protects the young and vulnerable from age related and potentially harmful activities.
- The Emergency Management Service has an overarching role in protecting and safeguarding all residents to ensure their safety.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 None.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 All activities and actions outline in paragraph 2 are funded from within existing Department of Place Service budgets service

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 Not applicable

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 No legal issues arising.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Not applicable.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

No implications.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

No implications.

7.6 TRADE UNION

Not applicable.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Actions outlined apply across the whole District and there are no specific ward implications.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

Activities and actions outlined in paragraph 2 are intended to improve outcomes for Looked after Children.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Not applicable.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The views of Panel Members are sought on the range of activities and actions outlined in Paragraph 2 of this report and on areas for further development.

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.