

**Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

**20 October 2015**

**Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2014-2015**

**1. Summary Statement**

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Board (the Board) comprises of six elected members (one of whom must be the Lead Member for Children's Services) and representatives of the Children and Young People being looked after by the Council.
- 1.2 The Board is accountable to the full Council and its purpose is to ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all the children and young people in its care.
- 1.3 The attached Annual Report highlights the major pieces of work undertaken by the Board during 2014-2015.
- 1.4 The driving statement behind the work of the Board is:-  
"What if this was my child? What would I want for them?"
- 1.5 This year, the Board hosted a major event to review the Looked After Children Strategy and the promises the Council made to looked after children to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Although the promises in the Looked After Children Pledge and the Care Leavers Charter remain unchanged, the Strategy has been fully revised and is now in line with the Children's Services Improvement Plan 2015-17.
- 1.7 The Board remains responsible for driving the delivery of the Looked After Children's Strategy. In order to ensure this, a key priority over the next few months is to revamp governance, membership, and the terms of reference of the Board.

Further details are attached for your information

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2014-2015 now submitted be received.
- 2.2 That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in December 2015 to approve the Looked After Children Strategy 2015 – 17.
- 2.3 That a further report be submitted to the Council in due course on proposals to revise the Terms of Reference and membership of the Corporate Parenting Board.

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## **3. Strategic Resource Implications**

- 3.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. The development and delivery of interventions to support the needs of children looked after and care leavers will have resource implications which will be addressed within the existing budget setting process.
- 3.2 The council's corporate risk management strategy has been complied with, to identify and assess the risks associated with these recommendations. This has identified that there are no significant risks that need to be reported.
- 3.3 Any risks associated with the delivery of the Looked After Children Strategy 2015-2017 will be identified at the time of review and incorporated into risk registers as appropriate.

#### **4. Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 4.1 The report has been produced in accordance with the Council's Constitution, which states that the Corporate Parenting Board will report annually to the first meeting of the Council in the Municipal Year after the Annual Meeting.

#### **5. Implications for the Council's Scorecard Priorities**

- 5.1 The report outlines how the corporate parenting board supports the priorities of the council Scorecard.

#### **6 Background Details**

- 6.1 The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the Corporate Parenting Board, specifying their terms of reference, general role and specific functions.

- 6.2 The terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Board states it will report annually to the Council to:-

- provide an analysis of the looked after children population in Sandwell during the relevant year;
- recognise the achievements made in Sandwell during the relevant year;
- provide a realistic assessment of the challenges to be overcome; and
- set out the Council's pledge promises to the looked after children and young people in its care.

- 6.3 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2014-2015 is attached along with the appendices.