

Meeting: Policy and Development Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team)

Date: 1st October 2018

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?

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 The Children and young people who are Looked After by Torbay Council and our Care Leavers face a number of challenges as they grow up and develop in care and then move on to independence.
- 1.2 The Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting Strategy has been developed alongside a number of other strategies and plans to ensure that we deliver the objectives within the Torbay Children and Young People's Plan for all those that are in care.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 Torbay council believes that one of the most important responsibilities it has is to ensure the effective care and protection of those children that are looked after by the local authority.
- 2.2 The strategy builds on Torbay's commitment to multi-agency working knowing that the best outcomes for children looked after and carer leavers will be achieved through effective partnership working across the system. The Council, officers, foster carers, independent providers, our NHS and Education partners, the Police

and voluntary sector organisations all contribute to improving the lives of our children and young people in care.

- 2.3 In relation to Corporate parenting the Ofsted inspection in July 2018 recognised some improvements in the services provided for Children in care and Care Leavers and particularly for those children where the permanency plan was for Adoption. The improvement in the councils delivery of its Corporate parenting duty was also recognised but there continue to be areas that were not considered adequate in meeting the needs of the children and young people in care. The Corporate parenting strategy has included in the action plan the areas for improvement which have been identified by Ofsted relating to Children and Young people in care and Care leavers.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting strategy attached at Appendix 1 be approved and that Director of Children's Services be given delegated authority to make any final changes in consultation with key stakeholders.

Appendices

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