

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028

To:	Children and Young People Committee
Meeting Date:	26 November 2024
From:	Executive Director: Children, Education & Families
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	2024/039
Executive Summary:	The report sets out the revised Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023- 2028 (Appendix 1). The revised strategy provides an update on the five key priorities and how they will be delivered over the next five years.
Recommendation:	The Children and Young People Committee is asked to agree the updated corporate parenting strategy 2023-2028 as set out in Appendix 1.
Voting arrangements:	Co-opted members are eligible to vote on this report.

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1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 The Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Strategy aligns towards:
- Ambition 7, Children and young people have opportunities to thrive.
 - Ambition 4: People enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs
- 1.2 The strategy seeks to provide a plan of how the The Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the council's vision for delivering on five key priorities, which have been co-produced in collaboration with children and young people, elected members, and key stakeholders.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Strategy was last updated in 2023 and it has been recognised as needing substantial revisions to ensure it fully captures the promises made to our children along with the newly created pledges for Care Leavers and clearly outlines the key priorities for improving their outcomes. It is important that the strategy also reflects the Care Leaver protected characteristic adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council, ensuring it is inclusive and forward-looking.
- 2.2 Since December 2023, significant progress has been made to engage children and young people in care, along with care leavers, ensuring their voices were central to the strategy's development. The Young People's Corporate Parenting Meeting, a pre-meeting to the corporate parenting sub-committee, has been revamped to encourage greater participation, which has positively impacted the strategy's progress.
- 2.3 Additionally, considerable collaboration has taken place with key stakeholders to ensure the strategy reflects their perspectives to aid the delivery of the objectives outlined in the strategy. To support the strategy's implementation, the service proposes the creation of a Corporate Parenting Steering Group. This group will regularly meet to drive the agreed priorities and actions, focusing on five key objectives that aim to enhance the care and support for the children and young people under Cambridgeshire County Council's care, aligned with their voices and needs.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028 outlines five key priorities to support children in care and care leavers. These priorities are:
- Children in our care who have experienced our services that we provide have an active role in care planning and contribute to the development of shaping future services.
 - Children and young people are placed in stable homes built with love where they feel a sense of safety and belonging.
 - We will ensure all aspects of health and wellbeing of children in our care are prioritised. We will help our children and young people maintain positive mental health and ensure

they receive timely support when needed.

- Children and young people are supported to succeed in education, employment and training in line with their aspirations.
- Children and young people who have experienced our care are supported to get ready for the world of work and become active members of society. We will ensure that young people are ready to be independent.

3.2 These priorities are designed to create a comprehensive support system for children in care and care leavers, ensuring their well-being and success in life.

4. Alternative Options Considered

Not Applicable.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028 (Appendix 1) outlines the council's vision for delivering on five key priorities, which have been co-produced in collaboration with children and young people, elected members, and key stakeholders.

5.2 CYP Committee is asked to agree the updated Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028 (Appendix 1).

6. Significant Implications

6.1 Finance Implications

There are no significant financial implications.

6.2 Legal Implications

Local authorities have a unique responsibility to the children they look after and their care leavers (relevant and former relevant children). In this context local authorities are often referred to as being the 'corporate parent' of these children and young people.

6.3 Risk Implications

There are no significant implications.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications.

6.5 Climate Change and Environment Implications (Key decisions only)

There are no significant financial implications.

7. Source Documents

It is a legal requirement for the following to be completed by the report author.

- 7.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is attached as Appendix 1.