

From Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services  
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director - Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date: 9 April 2015

Subject: **CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2015-16**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway: None

Future Pathway: None

Electoral Division: All

**Summary:** Provides an updated Children in Care and Care Leavers strategy for the Corporate Parenting Panel and Kent Corporate Parenting Group. This document is also a requirement of the Annex A inspection pack for Ofsted.

The Children in Care and Care Leavers policy is attached as Appendix A.

**Recommendation:** Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:

a) **NOTE** the content of both the report and the attached Children in Care and Care Leavers policy.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Children in Care Strategy has been refreshed from the previous version which covered 2011-14. It is a required document that will go into the Annex A Ofsted inspection requirements, and sets out the authority and partner's commitment to Corporate Parenting, the current position of Kent's children in care and care leavers, and the challenges and priorities that Kent seeks to address in the coming year. The Strategy includes input from the Our Children and Young People's Council (OCYPC), from partners and other stakeholders including Kent Corporate Parenting Group. The priorities are based on analysis of the data profile of Kent's children in care and care leavers, feedback from the OCYPC and partners including Virtual School Kent, and the national context.

## **2. Financial Implications**

2.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

## **3. Progress to date**

3.1 The Strategy is being presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel for discussion.

## **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 The policy meets the requirements of the Children Act, and all other legislation relevant to children in care and care leavers.

## **5. Personnel and Training Implications**

5.1 Once the policy is approved it will be issued to staff and stakeholders. The review of progress against priorities identified will form an ongoing self - assessment and will be the subject of scrutiny at Kent Corporate Parenting Group. A progress report can be made available to Corporate Parenting Panel in six months time setting out work done to address the identified priorities.

## **6. Property Implications**

6.1 None.

## **7. Implementation Proposals**

7.1 The strategy will be implemented from the 1 April 2015.

## **8. Recommendation(s)**

8.1 Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:

- a) **NOTE** the content of both the report and the attached Children in Care and Care Leavers policy.

## **9. Background Documents**

9.1 None.

## **10. Contact details**

Report Author:

*Melissa Caslake, Assistant Director Corporate Parenting*

03000 419055

*Melissa.caslake@kent.gov.uk*

Relevant Director:

*Philip Segurola, Interim Director of Specialist Children's Services*

03000 413120

[Philip.segurola@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.segurola@kent.gov.uk)