

TITLE OF REPORT: Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2023

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks Cabinet approval of the Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2023.

Background

2. In 2014, the Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy was taken to Cabinet for approval.
3. The 2018 – 2023 Strategy builds upon the previous strategy and highlights the Council's role in corporate parenting and as such, this document also serves as the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy.
4. The Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy sets out the strategic vision and intentions for the Looked After Service. This strategy sets out our new approach to providing services and support for Looked after Children and Young People and Care Leavers in Gateshead. It is based on supporting children in the community where it is safe and appropriate to do so, using strengths based practice. It also looks to improve the offer from ourselves and our partners, in supporting these children and young people to reach their full potential.

Proposal

5. Cabinet endorsement is sought for the Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2023.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (i) Approve the Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2023 for submission to Council.

for the following reason(s)

- (i) To continue to ensure that the needs of looked after children and care leavers are met.
- (ii) To ensure we achieve the priorities set out in the strategy.

- (iii) To ensure the role of Corporate Parent is embedded across the Council and with partners.
- (iv) To ensure the Council fulfils its statutory duties.

CONTACT: Jill Little

extension: 3420

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The revised strategy is based on the principle that children and young people who are looked after, or are Care Leavers, should have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. The proposals in this report are therefore consistent with the Council's newly adopted approach of Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives.

Background

2. The Council and its partners remain engaged in the delivery of a wide range of activity to support Looked after children, young people and care leavers
3. The Council is updating the Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2023 to both recognise changing roles, as well as ensuring the best possible outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers.

Consultation

4. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People has been consulted.
5. The members of the Corporate Parenting Partnership have been consulted and a variety of agencies have been engaged in the development of the strategy

Alternative Options

6. There are no alternatives to this report.
7. **Implications of Recommended Option Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no financial implications as a result of this strategy. Specific proposals arising from implementation will be presented to Cabinet for approval as required.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no specific implications arising from this report.
8. **Risk Management Implications** - The development of effective strategies forms part of control measures for Care, Wellbeing and Learning.
9. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – There is no disproportionate negative impact arising from this report as the strategy has been developed with the aim of supporting all children and young people who are looked after, or are Care Leavers.
10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The strategy seeks to safeguard children and to reduce their risk taking behaviour where necessary.

11. **Health Implications** – There are a range of proposals in the strategy which address how to meet the health and wellbeing needs of looked after children and care leavers
12. **Sustainability Implications** - No major implications.
13. **Human Rights Implications** - Proposals in the strategies support Article 6 – the right to education and article 8 – the right to a family life.
14. **Area and Ward Implications** - No specific implications