

Policy and Scrutiny

Open Report on behalf of Janice Spencer OBE, Assistant Director – Children's (Safeguarding)

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	23 July 2020
Subject:	Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy and Action Plan

Summary:

The Looked After Children (Children in Care) and Care Leaver Strategy is a key document guiding the work and activity of the Council, as the Corporate Parent, as to how we will design and develop services to support young people in our care. The Strategy was written and agreed in 2018 and this is the second review of the action plan.

The action plan is designed to track the activity that is working to achieve the aspirations set out in the strategy. This strategy is the first of its kind to be developed on a multi-agency basis and is supported by the LSCP and all the partners.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to review the progress against the priorities and actions identified in the Children in Care & Care Leavers Strategy Action Plan, and recommend any changes or actions for future consideration.

1. Background

The Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy is a key document guiding the work of the authority and its partners when working with and supporting our young people. The document was written in conjunction with all of the key partners and set out how the organisations will all work to meet the current and future needs of all our young people.

The Children in Care and Care Leaver strategy is designed to support young people to become independent and proactive adults. The Strategy sets out the activity and our aspirations.

This paper covers the action plan of activity deigned to deliver against the strategy. The paper is designed to assure members of the breadth and depth of activity taking place across Lincolnshire to support our Children in Care and Care Leavers. It is worthy to note that a considerable amount of progress has been made in relation to the contribution from wider partners, in particular the Districts Councils and health partners. A clear and comprehensive health history now follows each Looked After young person, and the offer to Care Leavers from the District Councils has alleviated pressures in finding young people suitable accommodation. Council Tax relief is now universal across all 7 districts and Care Leavers have experienced increased support and flexibility from all partners.

The Strategy can be found here: Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy

A revised Strategy will need to be developed in 2021.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to review the progress against the priorities and actions identified in the Children in Care & Care Leavers Strategy Action Plan, and recommend any changes or actions for future consideration.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report		
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Looked After Children & Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2021 – Priorities, Actions & Progress	

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Andrew Morris, who can be contacted on 01522 553916 or andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk