

**REPORT TO CABINET
8 OCTOBER, 2013**

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader of the Council, Sian Gwenllian

Subject: Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel

Contact Officer: Rhoslyn Prys

The decision sought

To approve the content of the Annual Report and the Work Programme.

Views of the local member

Not a local issue

Introduction

The Council has a clear statutory responsibility as a “corporate parent” for children in care and there is a clear expectation on the Council to fulfil that role “as if they were my child”.

It is important to remember that the parenting responsibility rests on the whole Council but the Corporate Parenting Panel does have a specific role to take an overview of the welfare and interests of these children.

It is necessary to produce an annual report describing the support given in terms of the voice of children and young people, the service provision, placements and a number of other matters that can be seen in the attached report.

In addition to the report on what has been achieved, a key element in the papers is the work programme noting the issues that are to be addressed over the coming months.

Reasons for the Recommendation

The corporate support of the Cabinet is an important part of the Council's commitment to the statutory responsibility that it shoulders. This responsibility is not a matter for a single department and the Cabinet is invited to show that support.

Relevant Considerations

In considering what is in the work programme, it is proper to consider the capacity implications arising. The work programme has been discussed and agreed internally prior to its submission to the Cabinet and the necessary resources to action the work programme are in place.

Recommendation

I recommend that the Cabinet approves the annual report and the attached work programme.

Statutory Officers' Observations

The Chief Executive

"It is vital that the Council shoulders its corporate parenting responsibility. Cabinet approval of the report is an important element in that but it is not the whole picture. There is now a clear responsibility to move ahead to action the Work Programme."

The Monitoring Officer

"The Corporate Parenting Panel is a panel that supports the Cabinet in undertaking the Council's functions as a parent to children in care and it is quite appropriate therefore that the Cabinet considers and receives a report annually. The Cabinet will wish to satisfy itself that the Panel has addressed the right issues in the report and the work programme."

The Head of Finance

As the "*considerations*" paragraph before the recommendation in this report notes that the "*necessary resources to action the work programme are in place*", I have nothing to add in relation to financial propriety.
