

Menu of Involvement activity - May 2017 – January 2018

- 1.0 Over 90% of elected members have engaged in wider activity in 2017. This included ensuring that arts and crafts hampers could be delivered to young people in residential homes during the Easter period so that staff and mentors could engage in craft activities. The hampers were also delivered by members undertaking visits and Corporate Parent mentors.
- 1.1 This work also ensured that care leavers could have Christmas dinner and presents as part of the Brum Xmas dinner. This is the first time this had taken place in Birmingham and was arranged to counter the loneliness experienced by many young care leavers aged 18-25 who for whatever reason don't have family or friends to be with on Christmas Day.
- 2.0 42.5% of elected members have been involved in more targeted corporate parenting this includes the areas of the menu of involvement described below.

	Menu of Choices	Member involvement in area between May 2017 and January 2018
	As a Ward / District Councillor	
1	Seek opportunities to listen to the voices of children in care.	Yes. This has been undertaken at events, meetings and visiting residential homes and other settings.
2	Carry out corporate parenting monitoring visits to the children's homes that have Birmingham children in them. Councillors can also visit children's homes outside Birmingham that have Birmingham children in and can liaise with officers to arrange these. Officer Contact: Louise Knowles	Yes. The percentage of residential homes visited by an elected member in the last year is 85.2%. Members have carried out monitoring visits but have also taken the opportunity to highlight opportunities to young people and staff as part of the wider corporate parenting agenda this has included employment taster days, celebration events and other activities.
3	Attend events in children's homes to assist with raising aspirations. Officer Contact: Natalie Loon	Yes. Members have undertaken this on a number of occasions and worked with staff and partners to deliver outcomes.

	Menu of Choices	Member involvement in area between May 2017 and January 2018
		An example of this was the Corporate Parenting BAM construction garden at Camborne House. A number of members worked alongside council mentors and partners to not only build the garden but support the young people undertake their work experience.
4	<p>Visit supported accommodation provision that have Birmingham children in them and build relationships with those providers.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Louise Knowles</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>This has been undertaken through the work of the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>An example was when the board visited St Basils to meet the staff and young people.</p>
5	<p>Ask questions of all providers about young people's access to services e.g. health and leisure to help ensure children in care are fully integrated into the area.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Members have supported developments in this area including Life Skills.</p> <p>Examples are supporting the work of CIC being able to swim and have water safety with the wellbeing service and cooking on a budget with City Kitchen.</p>
6	<p>In order to integrate residential and supported housing provision into the local community Councillors can ask the local partnerships and networks (e.g. including the police or health) to invite them to their meetings and events.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Commitment for ongoing support in this area has been made.</p>
7	<p>Where there are planning applications for new children's homes Councillors should balance the corporate parent role (e.g assisting officers in citizens understanding the impact of a children's home and by</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>This area has been supported by members.</p>

	Menu of Choices	Member involvement in area between May 2017 and January 2018
	<p>advocating the need for more children's homes) with the ward Councillor role of informing citizens and highlighting their concerns.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Andy Pepper</p>	
8	<p>Help with securing sponsorship support and reward partners.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Natalie Loon</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Members have supported this area creating 10 new partnerships with Reward Partners between May and January. This will increase the opportunities for our young people when offering work experience and taster days.</p>
9	<p>If a school governor:</p> <p>Help raise awareness that children in care are vulnerable and can ask what the school is doing to support the children in care. For instance, do Councillors know the number of children in care attending and is the school monitoring and focused on raising their educational attainment?</p> <p>Ensure children in care are treated fairly, this includes access to activities, education trips and work experience.</p> <p>Ensure that children in care are fitting into the school and achieving well on target.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Andrew Wright</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A number of members are undertaking this as part of their role as a school governor and have committed to continuing to do so.</p>
10	<p>To ask about the outcomes for children in care when visiting local schools.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Andrew Wright</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A number of members are undertaking this as part of their role as a school governor and have committed to continuing to do so.</p>
11	<p>Make better use of connections to promote employment, volunteering and training opportunities. For example, to ask local partners or businesses if they could offer</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>This has been undertaken and a number of members have actively</p>

	Menu of Choices	Member involvement in area between May 2017 and January 2018
	<p>work experience / mentoring or help children in care secure volunteering roles.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Natalie Loon</p>	<p>carried out the role of corporate parent mentor supporting young people on taster days, building confidence and sharing experiences.</p> <p>Members have also taken the opportunity to strengthen the relationships with partners when undertaking this role.</p>
12	<p>Help to raise the profile and awareness in communities and at Councillors' surgeries for recruitment for foster carers and adopters. For example, Councillors could have literature and marketing material and / or invite officers to attend community groups and schools to discuss this.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Theresa Kane / Anita Earl</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A number of members have been actively promoting this area sharing information at surgeries and meetings and actively wearing adoption and fostering lanyards and coats.</p> <p>Members have also attended AandF training session's engaging with potential foster carers and staff.</p>
	As a City Councillor:	
13	<p>At all times be thinking "what does this mean for children in care" when carrying out Council business. For example, Councillors being involved in developing the housing strategy and homeless transformation programme need to consider the needs of children in care.</p>	Yes.
14	<p>Understand the needs, issues and complexities of the children the Council is caring for. For instance, nationally there are issues in finding places for children with very complex needs.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Andy Pepper</p>	Yes.
15	<p>Help maintain a stable budget for Children's Social Care to assist with reducing agency staff so investment can be made in permanent staff that helps ensure stability for the child.</p>	Yes.

	Menu of Choices	Member involvement in area between May 2017 and January 2018
16	<p>To celebrate success for children in care, including attending one or more of a number of celebration events.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Natalie Loon</p>	<p>Yes..</p> <p>This is an area where members have shown huge commitment. Between May 2017 – January 2018 members have been present at all events for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Carers.</p> <p>They have carried out roles such as table hosts, engaging with carers and celebrating the successes with young people and adults.</p> <p>Members have further committed to a timetable of events for 2018.</p>
17	<p>Attend fostering and adoption recruitment events.</p> <p>Officer Contact: Theresa Kane / Anita Earl</p>	<p>As in point 12.</p>
18	<p>As well as being in contact with Children's Social Care if something has gone wrong officers welcome positive feedback about families and children's experiences.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Members have ensured that they share positive feedback with professionals be it social workers, residential staff, virtual school staff, Adoption and Fostering.</p>
19	<p>Ask social workers how well they know the children they are working with and evidence of whether the child's voice is heard and how they are involved in the decisions made.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Work in this area carried out by members includes visiting social workers and other professionals on a regular basis.</p>
20	<p>Visit or buddy up with Councillors in areas that have a larger number of children's homes (as children's homes are not evenly distributed in the city).</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board and Corporate Parenting Ambassador have worked in partnership with the commissioning team ensuring that there are always opportunities for members to buddy up. This has been successful on a number of visits undertaken.</p>

	Menu of Choices	Member involvement in area between May 2017 and January 2018
21	Any other activities not outlined above you can commit to in 2017/18. [Please insert details here]	Additional activity has been highlighted in 1.1