

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 11 March 2020	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Health and wellbeing of care leavers	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		(All wards)	
<b>From:</b>		Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. In advance of Corporate Parenting Committee on 11 March 2020, it is recommended that members review this cover note, together with the detailed paper entitled '*A Brief Evidence Summary of the Mental Health Needs of Children Looked After & Care Leavers*' by co-opted Corporate Parenting Committee member Dr Mark Kerr, The Centre for Outcomes of Care.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Corporate Parenting Committee on 11 March will follow the format of the previous Committee, whereby children in care were the focus in the first hour, and care leavers were the focus in the second hour. The focus of the second hour on 11 March 2020 is the health and wellbeing of care leavers.
3. The workshop will cover the health and wellbeing needs of care leavers, existing Council support, key issues to overcome, and suggestions for what more initiatives we could introduce to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. Partners from the NHS and CCG have been invited to contribute to the discussion.
4. Dr Mark Kerr, The Centre for Outcomes of Care, offered to develop a paper for members that summarises the available evidence on the mental health needs of looked after children and care leavers.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Dr Kerr's report summarises that most children in care suffer from chronic and often disabling mental health difficulties. These have serious and long-term negative effects on their physical health, wellbeing, housing and chances of being in education, employment and training.
6. Children in care typically have experienced numerous traumatic events including abuse, neglect, exposure to domestic violence, alcohol and drugs, a household member in prison, loss of a parent. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) may lead to profound consequences in adulthood including mental ill health, substance abuse, offending and unemployment. Exposure to multiple ACEs (a regular finding with looked after children) has a cumulative effect, increasing the severity of poor outcomes.

7. Young people who have had multiple foster placements and are then placed in residential care are at the highest risk.
8. Often, young people's mental health needs are unmet because they have not been identified or they do not meet CAMHS thresholds, and young people must wait a long time to access the right support through CAMHS. By screening young people earlier, interventions could be provided earlier.
9. Often, non-clinical professionals (including social workers, foster carers and residential care workers) must try to meet the needs of the children. Many are unequipped or lack training to deal with such high levels of mental health need.
10. 'Who pays' seems to dominate support and intervention provision; there are often discussions between children's social care and health about financial responsibility, which could be overcome by joint commissioning.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

11. There were none.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
None		

#### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	'A Brief Evidence Summary of the Mental Health Needs of Children Looked After & Care Leavers' by Dr Mark Kerr, The Centre for Outcomes of Care.

#### **AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
<b>Report Author</b>	Amanda Chandler, Catch 22	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	2 March 2020	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
	<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>
	Director of Law and Democracy	No
	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No
	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No
	<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	2 March 2020