



Corporate Parenting Committee  
25 July 2017

Report of the Strategic Director of People's  
Services

## ITEM 9

### The Children's Rights Service – Annual Report 2016/17

#### SUMMARY

- 1.1 Provision of the Children's Rights Service is enshrined in legislation for looked after children through the Children Act 1989 and through related regulation and guidance. The Council has a statutory duty to provide advocacy services for looked after children making complaints and to appoint independent visitors.

Care Matters –Time for Change 2006 emphasised that it is important that children in care have a chance to shape and influence the parenting that they receive at every level – from expressing their wishes and feelings about the individual care they receive in their placements, through to helping to shape the overall strategy for children in their area through a Children in Care Council

- 1.2 The Children's Rights Service in Derby is made up of 4 services and was until 31 March 2017 delivered by Volunteering Matters, the services include;
- The Independent Visitor Service
  - The Independent Advocacy Service
  - Independent Advocacy at Child Protection Conference
  - The Children in Care Council.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To receive the report

#### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 As part of our contract there is a requirement for the service to provide an annual report.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 Full annual report attached

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
---------------------------------

5.1 None

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b>  <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Pervez Akhtar Deputy Head of Service Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – The Children's Rights Service Annual Report 2016-17

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
---------------------

**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Legal Statutory obligations for this service will be contained within the report.**

- 2.1 There is a statutory requirement to provide a Childrens Rights Service for children in care.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

**IT**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Property and Asset Management**

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Risk Management**

- 9.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 10.1 The content of this report underpins the priority commitment, Protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people. Making sure that we take action to safeguard vulnerable adults and children that require higher levels of support including; our looked after children and vulnerable adults with learning disabilities. This will involve early intervention and prevention wherever possible.