

Public Document Pack



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

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Monday 15 April 2024

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Corporate Parenting Board

The **Corporate Parenting Board** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **10.15 am** on **Tuesday 23 April 2024**.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Muscroft", on a light-colored background.

Julie Muscroft

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Corporate Parenting Board members are:-

Member

Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)

Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds

Councillor Richard Smith

Councillor John Lawson

Councillor Karen Allison

Gill Addy

Kieran Lord

Joel Hanna

Stewart Horn

Louise Hallas

Vicky Metheringham

Tom Brailsford

Sara Miles

Jo-Anne Sanders

Keith Fielding

Georgina Ioannue

Keely Lucas

Farrah Munir

Designated Nurse for Looked after Children/Care Leavers

Interim Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)

Head of Corporate Parenting and Childrens Residential

Head of Joint Commissioning, Children & Families

Virtual School Headteacher

Service Director - Child Protection & Family Support

Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)

Interim Head of Service (Child Protection & Review Unit)

Service Director for Learning and Early Support

Kirklees Fostering Network

Kirklees Fostering Network

Care Leavers

Care Leavers

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Board/Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Minutes of previous meeting

1 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 5 March 2024.

3: Declaration of Interests

9 - 10

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Board.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Board will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four

deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

6: Head of Service Update

The Board will consider a verbal update from a Head of Service giving an overview of the work and progress in respect of the role of corporate parents.

Contact:

Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and Childrens Residential Services.

7: Independent Visitors Scheme Update April 2024

11 - 18

The Board will consider the Independent Visitors Scheme Update April 2024.

Contacts:

Lucy Fearnley, Team Manager for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

Sara Miles, Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

8: Terms of Reference of the Board

19 - 28

To consider the draft Terms of Reference for approval by the Board following amendment and to note the next steps.

Contact:

Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and Childrens Residential Services.

9: Corporate Parenting Strategy - Update

The Board will consider a verbal update on the Corporate Parenting Strategy Review.

Contact:

Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and Childrens Residential Services

10: Update from Fostering Diagnostic Visit

29 - 34

The Board will consider the Fosterlink Diagnostic Report March 2024, a Briefing Note for Corporate Parenting Board.

Contacts:

Lucy Fearnley, Team Manager for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

Sara Miles, Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

11: The Voice of Children and Young People and Care Experienced Young People

The Board will consider a verbal update in respect of the representation of the voice of Children and Young People and Care Experienced Young People.

Contact:

Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and Childrens Residential Services

12: Report of Care Leavers Ambassadors Event

35 - 40

The Board will consider a report on the Care Leavers Ambassadors Event.

Contacts:

Stephanie Hill, Project Manager - Children's Services

Lauren Stephenson, Team Manager – Family Support and Child Protection

13: Updates from Board Members on interaction with services

The Board will consider verbal updates from Board Members in relation to progress and key issues following interaction with Services and partners to challenge the role of the Corporate Parent.

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

14: Corporate Parenting Board Agenda

41 - 50

The Board will consider the agenda plan for 2023/24.

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

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Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Tuesday 5th March 2024

Present: Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)
Councillor John Lawson, Liberal Democrat - Group Leader
Stewart Horn, Head of Children's Integrated Commissioning
Louise Hallas, Virtual School Headteacher - Children & Young People
Vicky Metheringham, Service Director - Child Protection & Family Support

In attendance: Michelle Rawlings, Head of One Adoption West Yorkshire
Ian Mottershaw, Head of Service for Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Engagement Service

Observers:

Apologies: Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds, Cabinet Member - Learning and Aspiration
Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children/Care Leavers
Kieran Lord, Interim Service Director: Resources, Improvements & Partnerships
Sara Miles, Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Keith Fielding, Kirklees Fostering Network

1 Membership of the Board/Apologies

Apologies were received Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds, Sara Miles, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Gill Addy, Designated Nurse, Kieran Lord, Interim Service Director - Resources, Improvements and Partnerships, Kieth Fielding, Kirklees Fostering Network.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2024. When reporting on action undertaken in response to matters arising the previous meeting it was noted that in response to action point:

- 7 (1) a 'draft' version of the Dashboard infographic be shared with the Board during the meeting.
- 7 (2, 3, and 4) engagement with elected groups in respect of corporate parenting principles and training had begun.
- 9 (2) work was in progress to designing the wording of the corporate parenting pledge with the Children in Care Council.

Corporate Parenting Board - 5 March 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23rd January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All Items were held in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions received.

6 Public Question Time

There were no questions received from members of the public

7 Head of Service Update

The Board considered a verbal update presented by Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and Children's Residential Services. During the update Joel Hanna gave a presentation highlighted that:

- In relation to children accommodated out of area, it was noted that 80 children (13%) were placed over 20 miles from their home address, and of these 58 (72.5%) were living in family-based care arrangements.
- 45 (56%) of those children were confirmed as living in accommodation identified as part of their plan (e.g. - connected carers /kinship carers etc...)
- The remaining young people included 6 sibling groups, where placements were identified to retain children together.
- At its meeting held on 7th February 2024, the Council formally moved to recognise care experience as a protected characteristic in line with several other Local Authorities.
- This was a positive development and had been well received by the Children in Care Council (CICC).
- The immediate work to recognise this would include referring to groups with protected characteristics when making changes to policy and taking decisions, as well as undertaking work to rebalance negative connotations around growing up in care.
- Following on from the 2-day review of the Care leaving service provided by Mark Riddell (MBE) work had been undertaken to:
 - Establish better links between the CICC/CLF
 - Work with the Children Looked After Team to provide early preparation for becoming a care leaver.
 - Work closely with North Yorkshire around improving the quality of pathway plans.
 - The delivery of an ambassador event (hosted by Kirklees College) where over 40 organisations and partners had been invited.

In the discussion to follow, questions and comments were invited from Board Members, with the following issues being covered:

Corporate Parenting Board - 5 March 2024

- In response to a question from the ex-officio in relation to sharing of best practice around recognition of care experience as a protected characteristic, it was advised that the national care leaving benchmarking forum measured what Councils were doing to implement the meaning nationally.
- The Board welcomed that being in the care system had barriers, but that the approach to the recognition of this as a protected characteristic needed to be proactive and question what the impact would be on care leavers.
- In response to a question from the Board in relation to supporting care experienced young people with accommodation who were studying at university mid-term, it was noted that this was a challenge and work was being undertaken with housing providers and Personal Advisors' to help address this.
- In response to a question from the ex-officio around contact with student welfare as corporate parents it was advised that Personal Advisors' did this on an individual basis.
- The Board highlighted that it was important to recognise that university placements could put care leavers in a difficult situation with regards to accommodation and welcomed that work was being undertaken to address these challenges.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the Head of Service Update.

8 One Adoption West Yorkshire - 6 monthly report

The Board considered the One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), Half Year Performance Report – Kirklees Highlights presented by Michelle Rawlings, Head of One Adoption West Yorkshire who provided a summary of the activity in relation to Kirklees children and families during the first 6 months of the year. It was noted that:

- The number of children adopted remained stable and consistent and the same number of children were adopted and placed as in the same reporting period the previous year.
- There had been a slight increase in adoption plans made during the reporting period and a slight decrease in number of placements orders.
- 2 children sibling groups had disrupted and returned to Local Authority care.
- Most children continued to be placed with OAWY approved adopters.
- A key priority for OAWY was to address low Early permanence figures and work undertaken included offering training sessions across children's social care in January, and an educational webinar which would be rolled out to all staff.
- At the half year point there was a slight increase in number of children for agency decision not yet matched (25) and at year end there were 16 children with a placement order but not matched.
- Of those these children were from overwhelmingly white British backgrounds but over half were part of a sibling group.
- Of the 16 children with a placement order awaiting a match, 12 had characteristics which made them more difficult to match (i.e. - aged 5 or over, need a family alongside a brother or sister, are from an ethnically diverse background or had a disability), 6 of whom had more than one characteristic.

Corporate Parenting Board - 5 March 2024

In the discussion to follow, questions and comments were invited from Board Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In response to a question from the Board around how Kirklees compared with other neighbouring Local Authorities in relation to A1 and A2 indicators it was advised that this varied from period to period. Some Local Authorities had higher numbers of children, where in Kirklees smaller numbers meant 1 child could significantly affect the data and this was the same as other Local Authorities with similar numbers of children.
- The Board highlighted that high performance in the number of Special Guardianship Orders meant that there were lower numbers of adoptions which was positive.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the report 'One Adoption West Yorkshire, Half Year Performance Report – Kirklees Highlights'.

9 Children's Performance Report

The Board considered the latest Children's Performance Highlights Report which was presented by; Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and Children's Residential Services, Louise Hallas - Virtual School Headteacher, Stewart Horn - Head of Children's Integrated Commissioning, Ian Mottershaw - Head of Children's Integrated Safeguarding and Y.E.S and Anna Gledhill, Head of Sufficiency. It was highlighted that:

- As a part of the key focus to improve the performance indicator for stability, the MST team were now embedded within the Children Looked After Service.
- Changes in social workers were another element affecting stability, and work had also been undertaken with the CCIC to develop a pen picture to introduce social workers to children and young people prior to meeting.
- In relation to Children Looked After Education Outcomes, a breakdown for the reasons why young people were persistently absent was provided (as requested by the Board) and it was noted that:
 - 51% of young people who were currently persistently absent were seeing improved attendance.
 - 25% were currently ranked 'amber', which indicated there had been progress but improving the stability of progress was required.
 - 24% were currently ranked 'red' which indicated concerns around the absence of those young people.
 - Reasons for absence that affected Persistent Absence data included illness, lates, suspension and emotionally based school avoidance.
- In relation to Children Looked After Health Outcomes, it was noted that:
 - In relation to Review Health Assessments strong compliance with targets was being achieved and stability had been established in the staffing team.
 - Work continued to address challenges relating to Initial Health Assessments, and there had been improvements in attendance at clinics.

Corporate Parenting Board - 5 March 2024

- In relation to children looked after convictions, figures remained consistently low and there was an overall downturn to 0 this quare, which was attributed to work of the investment of the Disposal Panel.
- In relation to Fostering, a fostering diagnostic took place at the end of February 2024 and the feedback was anticipated feedback by the end of March 24.

In the discussion to follow, questions and comments were invited from Board Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The Board welcomed the idea of social worker pen pictures and MST involvement in preventing the destabilization of placements.
- The Board welcomed news of the Fostering Diagnostic feedback and it was agreed that this be presented to the Board.
- In response to a question from the board around looked after convictions and high performance in this area it was confirmed that the approach taken by the disposal panel would be adopted for all children not just looked after children.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the Childrens' Performance Highlights Report, and it was agreed that the feedback of the fostering diagnostic be presented to the Board.

10 The Voice of Children and Young People and Care Experienced Young People

The Board considered a verbal update in respect of the Voice of Children and Young People and Care Experience Young People presented by Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Children Looked After and Care Leavers. Joel Hanna gave a presentation which explained that:

- The voice of young people was heard by the Head of Service through weekly attendance at the Children in Care Council (CCiC) and Care Leavers Forum (CLF) alternately.
- Engagement had now taken place with the CCiC and CLF to inform the current review and revision of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- The Head of Service had also begun to meet with a smaller group of representatives from these forums along with other care leavers to design and deliver corporate parenting training to be provided to officers and elected members after the elections.
- Along with the launch of the new care leavers website work had been undertaken to review branding which included holding a competition with young people to design a new logo.
- Further engagement was held with the CICC and CLF around recognising 'care experience' as a protected characteristics following passing of the motion by the Council.

In the discussion to follow, questions and comments were invited from Board Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In response to a question from the Board around closing the feedback loop with young people, it was advised that feedback would be enabled through reviewing the governance arrangements of the Board and holding young person friendly meetings and 'takeover' meetings periodically.

Corporate Parenting Board - 5 March 2024

- In response to a question from the Board around negative feedback to the requests from young people it was explained that where there were limitations that it was important to be transparent and thoroughly explain the rationale behind why certain decisions were made.
- In response to a question from the Board around capturing the wider views and feedback of care leavers and children in care in Kirklees it was advised that work has been undertaken to widen out the activity and membership of the CICC. Mystery shopping and the exploration of advocacy for those groups and better connections with children's residential settings were also potential approaches discussed.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the verbal update 'The Voice of Children and Young People and Care Experience Young People'.

11 Corporate Parenting Strategy - Initial Update on Review

The Board considered a verbal update on the Corporate Parenting Strategy – Initial Update on Review presented by Joel Hanna, Head of Service, Corporate Parenting and Children's Residential Services. During the update Joel Hanna gave a presentation which set out an overview of work undertaken to refresh the Corporate Parenting Strategy, it was noted that the key elements of this work which included:

- Setting out the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy and priorities for 2024-2027.
- Reconfiguring the Corporate Parenting Board arrangements including a revision of the Boards Terms of Reference with the ambition to establish a broader membership with wider partners and the development of new performance report.
- Establish the delivery of the arrangements to implement and deliver those priorities through partnership approach.
- Engagement with the Children in Care Council (CICC) and Care leavers Forum.

In the discussion to follow, questions and comments were invited from Board Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In response to the Boards question around the governance arrangements it was advised that the draft strategy would include more detail and it was agreed for this to be presented to the Board.
- The Board noted that other key stakeholders such as foster carers for example should be included in the co-production of the strategy.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the verbal update 'Corporate Parenting Strategy – Initial Update on Review' and it was agreed that:

1. The Board the presentation be circulated to all Board members.
2. The Draft Strategy to be brought to the Board in the near future.

12 Updates from Board Members on interaction with services

The Board considered verbal updates from Board Members in relation to progress and key issues following interaction with Services and partners to challenge the role of the Corporate Parent.

Corporate Parenting Board - 5 March 2024

During the update the Chair noted attendance at:

- The Mockingbird 3rd installation event.
- A meeting with the Kirklees Fostering Network and Third Sector Leaders to discuss volunteering opportunities for looked after young people.
- A meeting with the Kirklees youth alliance ambassadors.
- A meeting with the Chief Executive of Locala.
- A meeting with the Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds and Councillor Paul Moore for a briefing session on children's services and a visit to Number 12.
- Chaired the Yorkshire and Humber Lead Member network where there was a focus on SEND.
- The Front Door Health check set up meeting.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the Updates from Board Members on Interaction with Services.

13 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

The Board considered the agenda plan for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the agenda plan for 2023/24 and it was agreed that the following reports be added:

1. Corporate Parenting Strategy
2. Fostering Annual Report
3. Update from Fostering Diagnostic Visit

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC
DECLARATION
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

Name of Councillor

Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed:

Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and

(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 23 April 2024

Title of report: Independent Visitors Scheme Update April 2024

Purpose of report: To inform the Board about the Children’s Services Independent Visitors Scheme

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	10.04.24
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kieran Lord
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	No
Cabinet member portfolio	No
	Cllr Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

The Independent Visitor's scheme sits within the Children's Rights team; this scheme matches children Looked After with volunteers, who offer support and guidance and opportunities to engage in positive activities.

2. Information required to take a decision

For information only, no decision required.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Service works with children and young people, families, and carers, and across the council and wider partnership. Adult volunteers in the Independent Visitors scheme provide a valuable service to children and young people Looked After by the local authority.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Service works with partners to deliver outcomes for children and young people Looked After, by Kirklees Council.

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Kirklees Independent Visitors Scheme is also known as Care2Listen.

The scheme provides independent adult volunteers who befriend children / young people in the care of the local authority; to spend time with them on a one-to-one basis, undertake activities and develop a positive relationship with a trusted, responsible adult. Volunteers provide children / young people with the opportunity to talk to someone independent, seek advice, guidance, and support from and have fun with, in an informal setting.

The value and impact of the scheme and relationships built is evidenced within feedback received from children/young people. General feedback received highlights that they value a relationship which is 'just for them'.

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

Not applicable

3.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

4 Consultation

Not applicable

5 Engagement

Not applicable

6 Next steps and timelines

Key priorities for 2024/2025 include:

Build upon the recent recruitment drive.

Match young people waiting for an Independent Visitor

Introduce enhanced data and quality assurance processes and further develop mechanisms to capture timely feedback from children and young people to support continuous practice and service delivery improvements.

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

8 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

9 Contact officer

Lucy Fearnley, Team Manager for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

Sara Miles, Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

10 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

11 Service Director responsible

Kieran Lord, Service Director, Resources, Improvements and Partnerships

Independent Visitors Scheme Update April 2024

1. Overview

Kirklees Independent Visitors Scheme is also known as Care2Listen.

The scheme provides independent adult volunteers who befriend children / young people in the care of the local authority; to spend time with them on a one-to-one basis, undertaking activities to support the development of a positive relationship with a trusted, responsible independent adult.

The volunteers provide children / young people with new experiences and the opportunity to talk to and spend time with someone independent, who they can seek advice, guidance, and support from and to have fun with, in an informal setting.

The Independent Visitors Scheme has a diverse range of volunteers. Volunteers must be aged 18 or over, with a minimum 5-year age gap between the adult volunteer and the young person they are matched to.

Children and young people are referred to the scheme by either their Social Worker or Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). A child's IRO has a duty to discuss the scheme at their Looked After Review meeting(s).

Independent Visitors are expected to spend time with the young person who they are matched with on a regular basis, approximately 4-10 hours per month, although this might be more frequent at the start of the match, as the volunteer and young person are getting to know each other.

Once matched with a child /young person the relationship may be for a short period of time or for many years, this will depend on both the Independent Visitor and child /young person being happy and able to maintain the relationship. However, there is an expectation that volunteers to commit a minimum of one year to the scheme.

Independent Visitors undertake a range of activities with the children/young people they are matched with including, eating out visits to the cinema and museums, park walks, picnic's, shopping, outdoor activities, and creative activities such as crafts/arts, baking and sewing.

2. Independent Visitors

Currently there are 22 active volunteers, of which 3 have availability for new matches, and there are 5 volunteer applicants in the recruitment process.

18 of the Independent Visitors are female and 4 are male. This is a similar cohort as seen in other regional schemes.

Their age range is between 31 and 70 years old. Of the 22 Independent Visitors, 2 live outside of Kirklees in neighbouring Local Authorities and they are matched with young people.

3. Children and young people matched with an Independent Visitor

The young people currently matched with an Independent Visitor are aged between 12 and 20 years old, and the majority are female, with only 4 being male. 7 of the young people are recorded as living outside of Kirklees, of these 6 live in neighbouring local authorities.

The large majority (19/21) of children and young people matched have been matched successfully with their Independent Visitor for over a year and many of the children and young people who benefit from having an Independent Volunteer have had the same volunteer for significantly longer.

4. Children waiting to be matched.

There are currently 23 children and young people who have been referred to the scheme and are waiting to be matched with a Volunteer.

13 are male, and they are aged between 9 and 16 years old, of which only 6 live in Kirklees. The 10 females are of a similar age range (9 and 17 years old), and 6 are recorded as residing in Kirklees.

Of the 11 children and young people who live out of area, the majority reside in neighbouring local authorities, such as Wakefield, Leeds, Calderdale, and Bradford, however others live a significant distance away, which is a complicating factor when seeking to match them with an Independent Visitor.

8 of the 22 children and young people on the waiting list have additional needs such as ADHD, Autism, communication difficulties, and /or a physical disability, and for some of these children and young people it is noted that they would benefit from being matched with a volunteer with knowledge of their specialist needs. For other children /young people waiting to be matched it is recognised that they would benefit from a cultural match with their Independent Visitor.

A small number of children /young people have also shared a preference with regards to the age or gender (male) of the Independent Visitor who they want to be matched with; this is a further complexity when considering the cohort of volunteers.

5. Summary

In January 2024, the Volunteer Service supported recruitment by promoting the Independent Visitor Role as their featured role. The scheme has also been promoted via the council intranet. As a result, we have 5 volunteer applicants in the recruitment process.

The Independent Visitors scheme seeks to match a volunteer with a child/young person who meets their preference in terms of placement, location, age, and gender as quickly as possible, however the process can be complex due to matching the volunteer's preference with an individual child /young person's needs or request. It is important that full consideration is given to the matching to ensure that a match is appropriate and successful.

As a service, we are continuing to review how we can develop the scheme and explore avenues to improve the current service model, taking into account the demographics of the children/young people on our waiting list. Moving forward, between April- June 2024 we are looking at building capacity in the service to progress recruitment and matches, and in the longer term from July 2024 review our advertising and marketing strategies in order to recruit volunteers who are able to meet the specific needs of our children/young people and reduce our waiting list.

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REPORT TITLE: Amend arrangements for Corporate Parenting Board

Meeting:	Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
Date:	11/04/2024
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Kendrick
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No Not applicable
<p>Purpose of Report</p> <p>To seek approval to amend the arrangements for the council Corporate Parenting Board and confirm new terms of reference, and arrangements for a future 'Kirklees Parenting Board'</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the current arrangements set out in the council's constitution for oversight of the Corporate Parenting Board be amended. This will reflect that the board will be a closed partnership meeting following the revision of term of reference and revised Corporate Parenting Strategy. • That the new terms of reference for Kirklees Parenting Board are agreed. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the establishment of broader partnership arrangements to deliver the authorities duties for ensuring corporate and partnership arrangements are in place. The strengthening of current arrangements will ensure we are effective in supporting children in care and care leavers in line with the authority's statutory responsibilities across a wider range of partners. • To be able to engage with children and young people within the board arrangements, so their voice is central in delivering service development and improvements. • To respond to recommendations set out in feedback provided to the Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team following a visit from the National Implementation Advisor to the Department for Education considering our corporate parenting arrangements and services to care leavers. 	
<p>Resource Implications:</p> <p>There are no identified additional resources implications.</p>	
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Proposal approved at ELT 09/04/2024 following presentation of draft revised ToR

<p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</p> <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</p>	<p>Strategic Director is Tom Brailsford</p> <p>N/A</p>
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Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? The content of the report is not regarded as sensitive and contains no information subject to the General Data Protection Regulations.

1. Executive Summary

In 2015 a paper was presented to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to establish the current corporate parenting board arrangements within the current council constitution. The terms of reference that established the board at that time have since been amended to represent changes to membership, but no other significant changes have been made since 2015.

Since the establishment of our board there have been some significant national developments including statutory guidance regarding local authorities' responsibilities and duties in respect of corporate parenting. Additionally, there has been significant work undertaken recently with partners across our local authority area to engage and establish a broader collective responsibility as parents for our children and young people. This reinvigorated partnership approach will support Improving outcomes for children and young people in our care and those who become our care leavers.

As part of our improvement journey, we have agreed a new approach to corporate parenting in Kirklees. Therefore, the governance arrangements need to be amended to ensure that the renewed board arrangements are fit for purpose.

2. Information required to take a decision

Local authorities hold a statutory responsibility to provide care and protection for children who are looked after by the local authority and care leavers. Arrangements for delivering services to children looked after by the local authority and care leavers are provided through a partnership led by the local authority.

Set out within the inspection framework for local authority children's services is a list of requirements for local authorities to demonstrate partnership and cross authority commitment and arrangements. The revised terms of reference, proposed membership and reporting arrangements have been set out to ensure that our governance and

delivery arrangements remain effective to meet current statutory requirements and inspection expectations.

Finally, the recommendations set out in the report have also been informed by the observations and recommendation provided to the authority following a two-day review of our services provided to Care Leavers from the Implementation Advisor to the Department for Education Mark Riddell MBE. As part of these recommendations, it was noted that our corporate parenting governance arrangements could be enhanced by moving away from what was observed as a 'committee/scrutiny approach' to a 'champion model approach' supported by a broader partnership.

It is important to note that the quality of services delivered, and performance will continue to be overseen and scrutinised within children's scrutiny arrangements, the authorities' children's services Ambitions board arrangements and existing monthly performance arrangements.

3. Implications for the Council

Through adopting these revised arrangements, the council will be best placed to maximise the support available to children in care and care leavers whilst demonstrating effectiveness of governance and oversight of the performance of services.

3.1 Council Plan

Supporting our children in care and our care leavers to achieve their full potential is a core duty for the local authority and a priority for the council as demonstrated through its commitment in resources allocated to children's services. Set out within the executive forward to the council's plan 2024 -25 is a recognition that to achieve the priorities in the council plan we will require service transformation. Adopting the recommendations set out in the report will enable services to draw on wider partnership contributions and support delivered through a renewed partnership.

3.2 Financial Implications

Whilst the recommendations set out in this report are cost neutral with regards to implementation, it is anticipated that through the development of our new delivery and partnership arrangements, services delivered to children in care and care leavers, will be enhanced to achieve better outcomes whilst ultimately improving outcomes and reducing need and cost. reduced cost and need.

3.3 Legal Implications

Whilst there are no statutory requirements that dictate specific governance arrangements for local authorities in delivering their statutory duties, the proposed model is recognised as meeting the best practice and effective corporate parenting arrangements as set out in the Local Government Associations 'resource pack' to local authorities.

Statutory guidance to applying corporate parenting principles to looked after children and care leavers was published in 2018 and is now a central part of the framework for inspecting local authority children's services.

Children and Social Work Act 2017 establishes Corporate Parenting Principles which are part of the focus of the inspection framework.

(1) A local authority in England must, in carrying out functions in relation to the children and young people mentioned in subsection (2), have regard to the need—

(a) to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people.

(b) to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.

(c) to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.

(d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.

(e) to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.

(f) for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.

(g) to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Strong corporate parenting means strong leadership, challenge and accountability at every level. The quality of support can be measured in how the child or young person experiences the support they receive and the extent to which they feel listened to and taken seriously.

3.8 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

4. Consultation

Our intention to broaden membership and remove the board from its current format and governance arrangements as an meeting open to the public, has been discussed within existing board arrangements and developed with our Children in Care council and Care Leaver Forum.

5. Engagement

Stakeholders include current board membership, Executive Leadership team, care leavers forum and the children in care council have been involved in the development of the new arrangements.

6. Options

These reports and recommendations relate to revised terms of reference and therefore no options appraisal is considered necessary.

6.1 Options considered

These reports and recommendations relate to revised terms of reference and therefore no options appraisal is considered necessary.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

To support the establishment of broader partnership arrangements to deliver the authorities duties for ensuring corporate and partnership. Also to ensure arrangements

are in place and are effective to support children in care and care leavers in line with the authority's statutory responsibilities.

To enable engagement in with children and young people within the board arrangements in closed session

To respond to recommendations set out in feedback provided to the Chief Executive following a visit from the National Implementation Advisor to the Department for Education considering our corporate parenting arrangements and services to care leavers.

7. Next steps and timelines

Following consideration by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, on the 10th of May 2024, the report will progress to Annual Council on 22nd May 2024 for approval.

8. Contact officer

Joel.Hanna@Kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

N/A

10. Appendices

Draft ToR

11. Service Director responsible

Vicky.Metheringham@Kirklees.gov.uk

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Kirklees Parenting Board – Terms of Reference

Draft March 2024

Version & Date:	Name of lead officer	Date of approval
Version (1) March 2024	Joel Hanna HoS CP.	
Version (2) April 2024	Joel Hanna HoS CP.	ELT 09/04/24
Version (3) April 2024	Joel Hanna HoS. CP	Cllr Kendrick 10/04/24
Version (4) April 2024	Joel Hanna HoS. CP	Tom Brailsford 11/04/2024

Aim.

Kirklees Council is committed to delivering the best possible services to meet the needs of children and young people living in and leaving care in the local authority. The council has established a strong corporate parenting ethos across the authority recognising that to maximise opportunities and provide the best possible outcomes for our care leavers and children in our care we need to maintain a strong partnership.

All children need love and stability to thrive. Our strong corporate parenting ethos means that everyone in the authority from the Chief Executive to our front-line staff, all elected council members and our statutory and wider partners are committed to delivering the best for our children and care leavers as if they were their own family.

The aim of the board is to provide, promote and embed a culture where council officers and partners do everything possible to ensure that our corporate parenting partnership is the best 'parent' it can be, always thinking '**would this be good enough for our own children**'.

The Corporate Parenting Board will ensure that the council work collectively to make sure children in Kirklees's care get the best possible support and services through their care and care leavers journey.

The Objectives

The key objectives of our Kirklees Parenting Board are to:

- ❖ agree and set the strategic plan for children in care and care leavers ensuring that key priorities are effectively delivered.
- ❖ ensure that the voice of children and care leavers is listened and responded to in relation to their experiences of being in care and the kinds of services they want.
- ❖ examine and challenge key data relating to children in care and care leavers and support continuous improvements.
- ❖ explore the extent to which the Council and its partners are contributing to meeting the needs of children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ ensure that the strategic plans for children in care and care leavers are being effectively delivered.

- ❖ Identify and celebrate the achievements of individual children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ be a champion for children in care and care leavers in the Council and across partners promoting the philosophy of : “**would this be good enough for my child?**”
- ❖ ensure those planning, delivering, and monitoring services have taken account of inclusion, diversity and equality issues affecting children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ monitor the implementation of agreed actions, in particular actions taken in response to the views of children and young people.
- ❖ ensure that all members of the board promote the opportunities and understanding of the needs of children and young people across their area of specialism.

These objectives will be delivered by:

- ❖ Listening to the feedback from children and young people and making proposals for action within the Council and across our partnership to improve services to children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ Monitoring progress and development of children and young people in key areas such as education, health, accommodation, and employment opportunities by using management information.
- ❖ Making recommendations to the Council on ways of improving development opportunities for children and young people, and the quality of care offered to children in care and care leavers in Kirklees.
- ❖ Engaging in opportunities to obtain direct feedback and experiences of those in receipt of or who deliver our services.
- ❖ Engaging in annual ‘take over’ events with the children in care council and care leavers forum.

Board Membership:

Our corporate parenting partnership is supported by a broad membership committed to delivering our strategic priorities. The board is supported by council officers listed below as supporting Officers. Where board members are unable to attend, they should make efforts to send a suitable nominee able to represent their organisation.

Board Members:

Lead Members for Children’s Services (Co-Chair)
 Chief Executive Officer of the council (Vice-Chair)
 Representative from the Kirklees Care Leaver’s Forum
 Representatives Elected Members from all political groups in the council
 Director of Children’s Services
 Chief Quality and Nursing Officer ICB
 Designated Nurse for Children Looked After
 Designated Doctor for Children Looked After
 Representatives from Kirklees Fostering Network
 Representative from Kirklees College
 Huddersfield Town Foundation Trust
 Representative from Huddersfield University

Representative from Locala
West Yorkshire Police District Commander
Service Director from Neighbourhood & Housing
National Probation Service
Public Health Kirklees Council

Supporting Officers:

Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection
Service Director from Adult Services
Service Director, Learning and Early Support
Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships
Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)
Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)
Head of the Virtual School Head
Head of contextual Safeguarding and Youth Engagement Services
Integrated Commissioning Manager

Board Observers/ ex officio. members and for papers.

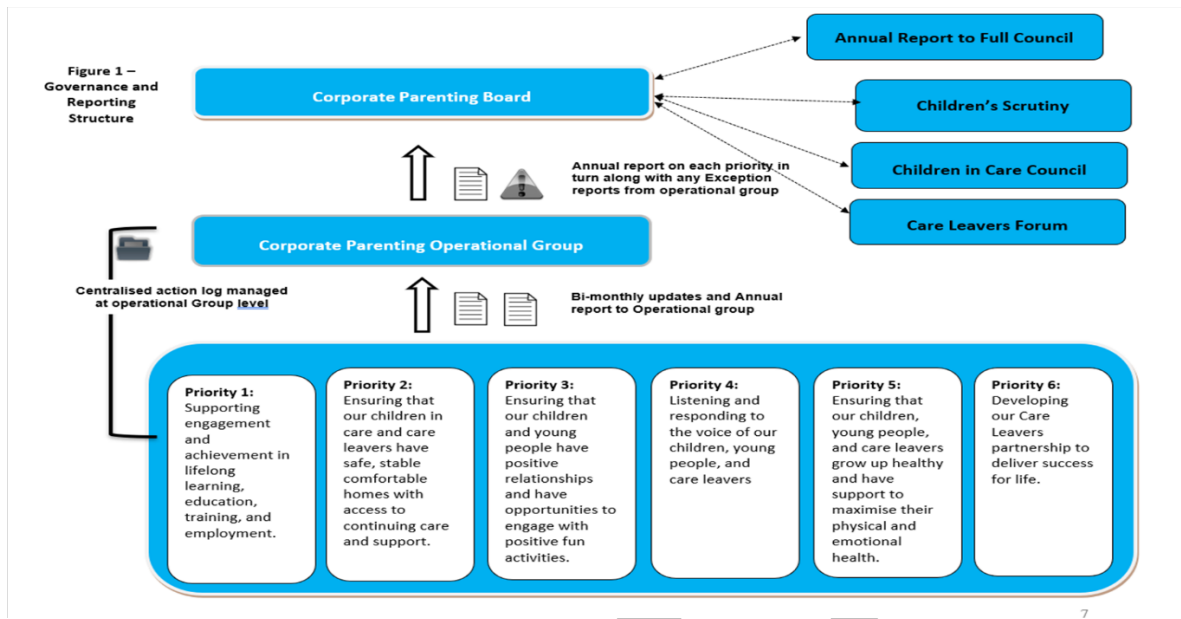
Chair of Children’s Scrutiny Panel or his/her/their nominee
Leader of the council

Administration and arrangements

Kirklees Corporate Parenting Board brings together a broad partnership of senior council officers, elected members and partner organisations and agencies to deliver the agreed **strategic plan for corporate parenting** across the authority. The Board will meet a minimum of six times per annum (bi-monthly) ensuring the children and young people in care and/or care leavers voices are represented within each meeting. Progress of each of the agreed strategic priorities will be presented for an overview and update report to the board with one priority reported in turn as the substantial agenda item for discussion and consideration.

The board will report progress on delivering the authority’s corporate parenting strategy to full council on an annual basis. *figure 1* below. The board will also receive an update on our children’s residential homes outlining inspection and independent visitor feedback.

Fig 1



Agenda and papers for each meeting will be circulated 5 working days prior to each meeting and the forward plan for board meetings will be arranged to maximise attendance and engagement for Care Leaver's Forum representatives through 50% evening meetings. Minutes and agenda for all board meetings will be shared with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers forum for comment and contribution via the Head of Service for corporate parenting.

END



Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 23 April 2024

Title of report: Fostering Diagnostic Report March 2024

Purpose of report: To inform the Board about the findings and recommendations of the Department of Education Fostering Diagnostic Visit that took place in February 2024.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	10.04.24 Kieran Lord No No
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

The Fosterlink Advisor carried out a diagnostic visit to Kirklees Local Authority on 7th, 8th and 14th February 2024.

The project stems from a national shortage of suitable foster carers to meet the growing population of children in care, with the aim to offer in-depth, diagnostic support to local authority fostering service that specifically focuses on recruitment and approval practices.

A full report was completed and this document will provide an overview of the findings and recommendations.

2. Information required to take a decision

For information only, no decision required.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Service works with foster carers and potential foster carers across Kirklees and the West Yorkshire region.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Service works with partners to deliver outcomes for children and young people Looked After, by Kirklees Council.

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The fostering service are committed to doing all we can to provide outstanding services, for all our children and young people who come into our care. We are committed to providing children and young people with high quality parenting, care and the right support, to enable them to aspire, achieve and live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives through our foster carers. We recognise that to achieve this ambition we need to build our fostering community and increase the number of in-house foster carers in Kirklees.

Our ambition to provide the right homes for all our children and wherever possible to provide family-based care is supported by the findings and recommendations in this report.

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

Not applicable

3.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

4 Consultation

Not applicable

5 Engagement

Not applicable

6 Next steps and timelines

That the report informs the Fostering recruitment and retention strategy 2024-27 and the Fostering recruitment and marketing action plan 2024.

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

8 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

9 Contact officer

Lucy Fearnley, Team Manager for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

Sara Miles, Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

10 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

11 Service Director responsible

Kieran Lord, Service Director, Resources, Improvements and Partnerships

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Fosterlink Diagnostic Report March 2024 – Briefing Note for Corporate Parenting Board

The Fosterlink Service project has been commissioned by the Department of Education in response to the 'Independent Review of Children's Social Care' (2022) and Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) markets study, 'Stable Homes, Built on Love' (2022).

The project stems from a national shortage of suitable foster carers to meet the growing population of children in care, with the aim to offer in-depth, diagnostic support to local authority fostering service that specifically focuses on recruitment and approval practices.

The Fosterlink Advisor carried out a diagnostic visit to Kirklees Local Authority on 7th, 8th and 14th February 2024. This included a series of meetings with existing and prospective foster carers, panel representatives, and staff members such as social workers, recruitment officers, marketing and communications personnel, administrators, and fostering managers. Time was spent with Foster Carers to better understand their experiences with the Local Authority during their enquiry and application process and discussed the support they received from the service in the lead up to the assessment. Meetings with staff and panel representatives focused on discussing the assessment process and the preparations leading up to presenting assessments to the panel.

A full report was completed and this document will provide an overview of the findings and recommendations:

Overall findings:

- The fostering service has a healthy recruitment budget and Kirklees fostering has some unique selling points such as continuous service allowance, the assessing social worker remaining allocated for a handover period of 3 months and a peer mentoring scheme;
- The team is well staffed as a dedicated resource, and there are two dedicated Fostering Recruitment Advisors who manage enquiries and Initial visits. As a result all assessments are completed in house and journey to foster training is delivered in house.;
- There is a clear process for handling enquiries and clear timescales for this;
- There is a system keep in touch with applicants who are not ready to proceed ("back burner cases");
- Feedback from 2 foster carers who have recently been through the recruitment process was that this was timely from initial visit to application;
- There is a well-established foster panel which is flexible. Social workers and applicants report positive feedback in respect of the panel process;
- We know the demographic of its population and are striving to recruit foster carers to meet the needs of the children who need foster carers;
- The Kirklees Corporate Parenting Board has a Kirklees Fostering Network Foster Carer representative on the Board;

- Staff report the Kirklees Councillors are actively involved with the fostering service. The Lead Member is seen as an ambassador for the service;
- The Fostering Service has invested in the Mockingbird programme;
- The Fostering Service is at the early stages of developing Multi-Systemic Therapeutic (MST) fostering.

The following areas of improvement/next steps were identified:

- Review the process for receiving and handling telephone enquiries and regular monitoring of the phoneline.
- To complete quality assurance activity in respect of why enquiries cease or withdraw from the process;
- Develop a clear procedure for applicants who aren't ready to proceed now, and consider a "keeping warm" newsletter;
- Consider the fee for an additional child (£63.88) as this may not be competitive when compared to other Local Authorities or Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) in the region.
- The Recruitment and Marketing post is currently vacant and the internal comms team has staffing pressures. As a result there is delay in updating the website. In addition there is a need to consider sharing more locally relevant fostering articles on social media channels.
- Complete a competitor analysis of neighbouring Local Authorities and IFA's in relation to rates and benefits.
- Reviewing recruitment process against key performance indicators to ensure timeliness in recruitment
- Analyse and build upon marketing activity.
- Work closely with Kirklees Fostering Network to involve foster carers in recruitment and training, service development and policies and implementation.
- Consider having a foster panel member with an educational background.
- Review data collection and reporting processes.

Next steps

In line with the recommendations the Fostering Service have updated the recruitment and retention strategy (2024-2027) and the recruitment and marketing action plan.

The findings have been shared with the Recruitment Team and developments are underway to implement the agreed recommended actions.



Report to Corporate Parenting Board

Title	Report of Care Leavers Ambassadors Event
Author	Stephanie Hill (Project Manager) Lauren Stephenson (Service Manager)
Date of Meeting	23/04/2024
Report subject	To provide an overview and update on the Care Leavers Ambassadors Event
Key Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Care Leavers Service are working to establish a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Network’ – a network of support for care leavers including partners, organisations, and businesses, to develop enrichment opportunities, raise funds for events and activities, and enhance our local offer for care leavers. • On 7th March 2024, the Care Leavers Service held a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Networking Event’, sponsored by Kirklees College, to which we invited council colleagues, partners, organisations, and businesses, to strengthen our relationships with them, and commence building the network of support. • We had several speakers at the event, including care experienced adults who spoke around our ambition to create a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Network’, and why this is important for our care leavers. • The event was a success from which we received several offers of support for our care leavers. The Care Leavers Service is now working with partners and organisations to progress these. • We aim to hold further networking events in future, and also continue to form and build relationships with partners and organisations outside of these events.
Summary of Decisions	
For Information	
Background documents (please list)	
Nil	

1. Introduction

- 1.0 The support required for our care leavers is vast and cannot be provided by the local authority alone – we need to build a network of support for our care leavers. The Care Leavers Service aims to establish a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Network’, which will be a network of support for care leavers including partners, organisations, and businesses, to develop enrichment opportunities and raise funds for events and activities and enhance the local offer for our care leavers.
- 1.1 On 7th March 2024, the Care Leavers Service held a ‘Care Leavers Ambassadors Networking Event’, to which we invited council colleagues, partners, organisations, and businesses.
- 1.2 The purpose of the event was to commence building this network, and to strengthen our relationships with partners, organisations, and businesses.

2. Event Programme

- 2.0 The event was opened by Joel Hanna (Head of Corporate Parenting) providing an introduction and overview of our ambition to create the network of support for our care leavers.
- 2.1 Andi Brierley (Head of Access, Participation, and Outcomes, Leeds Trinity University) who has an extensive career in youth justice and is care experienced himself, talked about his experience and why a wide network of support is important for our care leavers.
- 2.2 There was an input from Christine, Personal Advisor, and Jamie from Huddersfield Town Foundation, who talked about their roles supporting care leavers.
- 2.3 Omaid Badar, National Social Worker of the Year, talked about his care experience and challenges faced by our care experienced young people.
- 2.4 Palvinder Singh (CEO and Principle, Kirklees College) spoke in relation to his experience working with care experienced students, and again, why support for our care experienced young people is essential.
- 2.5 Lauren Stephenson (Interim Care Leavers Service Manager) reiterated that the support required for our care leavers is vast and wide, and asked those present to

inform the Care Leavers Service if there is any support they can offer, and to cascade the information presented at the event amongst their networks.

3. Outcome / Next Steps

3.0 The event saw representatives from various partners and organisations including C&K careers, Huddersfield University, Kirklees College, Kirklees Active Leisure, the Huddersfield Town Foundation Trust, Fourteen19, Kirklees Local TV, the Fran Perry Foundation, Learning and Early Support, the Virtual School and Housing in attendance. Cllr Viv Kendrick also attended.

3.1 The event was a success and has stimulated several offers of support which the Care Leavers Service is now progressing with partners and organisations. Some offers of support include, but are not limited to, those detailed below.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Offer of Support</u>
Kirklees Local TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create promotional material to promote and showcase our aims to create a Care Leavers Ambassadors Network and the need of support from partners, organisations, and businesses. • Training and work experience opportunities within the multi-media digital industry. • Facilitate access to civil service apprenticeships/careers. • Access to motivation speakers to inspire and guide care leavers on professional journeys. • Collaborative funding opportunities.
University of Huddersfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide information, advice, and guidance to care leavers. • Attend Care Leavers Service meeting to speak with team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To invite Care Leavers Service to relevant events.
Kirklees College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of venue when required. • Meeting with service to explore all possibilities to support care leavers.
Kirklees Active Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Leavers Plus One access to KAL gyms to be explored.
Fran Perry Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for activities that meet the aims and aspirations of the Fran Perry Foundation (i.e., a theatre trip for care leavers). • Shelia from the foundation is involved in an organisation teaching English therefore, to explore opportunities for our care experienced young people. • Sheila is also a trustee with Fusion Housing if a link in is required.

The Care Leavers Service was already working closely with some of the attendees at this event including,

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Support/Connection</u>
The Huddersfield Town Foundation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting an independent living skills course which has recently been revised and will be commencing with a cohort of our care leavers in the near future. • Bi-weekly football sessions for care leavers. • Agreed to hold any funds raised to hold events and activities for our care experienced young people in their charitable pot which will be accessed for this purpose only.

<p>Fourteen19 – A strategic and creative youth agency promoting opportunities to teens and young adults and encouraging them to engage with beneficial products and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Care Leavers Service around two projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) “Into Work Creative Experience” workshops for our NEET young people to develop employability and life skills and; 2) Creating podcasts that demonstrate what it is like to be a young person with care experience and how challenges and obstacles have been overcome, for awareness of other care experienced young people who access these.
<p>C&K Careers</p>	<p>We have a representative from C&K careers who works alongside the Care Leavers Service and with our care experienced young people.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>The Care Leavers Service is working closely with Housing around the housing offer.</p>

3.2 Recognising the success of the event we are continuing to build and engage other partners, organisations, and businesses we would wish to build and strengthen our relationships with to develop and broaden this network of support for care leavers. We have continued to make further connections outside of this event, from which we have obtained further offers of support for our care leavers, and we aim to hold further ‘Care Leaver Ambassador Networking Events’.

END

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Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2023/24

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p align="center">Tuesday 4th July 2023</p> <p align="center"><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 22nd June 2023</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 26th June 2023</i></p>	<p align="center"><u>Pre-meeting (private)</u></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p>Care leavers/ Children Looked After Overview Report</p> <p>Briefing note on Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children & Post-16 Education</p> <p align="center"><u>Public Items:</u></p> <p>Membership of the Board</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Strategy</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan</p>	<p>O Rix/ L Hallas / V Metherringham /G Addy O Rix</p> <p>O Rix/ L Hallas / V Metherringham /G Addy</p> <p align="center">Board Members</p> <p>O Rix/ L Hallas / V Metherringham /G Addy V Metherringham/O Rix</p> <p align="center">Cllr Pattison /L Hallas</p> <p align="center">Board members</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2023/24

<p>12th September 2023</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 31st August 2023</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 4th September 2023</i></p>	<p>Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p>Overview reports (Children Looked after and Care Leavers)</p> <p>Voice of Children and Young People (name TBC)</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Membership of the Board</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>One Adoption West Yorkshire (Annual Report)</p> <p>Children’s Rights Team Annual report</p> <p>Overview of Children’s Residential Services</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p>	<p>O Rix/ L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy</p> <p>O Rix</p> <p>O Rix</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Harris</p> <p>O Rix/ L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy</p> <p>M Rawlings</p> <p>A Gledhill /S Miles</p> <p>J Hanna</p> <p>Cllr Pattison/J Tolley</p> <p>Board Members</p>
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Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2023/24

	Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan	J Harris
<p>Tuesday 24th October 2023</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 12th October 2023</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 16th October 2023</i></p>	Pre-meeting (Informal)	
	Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)	O Rix/ L Hallas / V Metherringham /G Addy
	Overview Reports	O Rix
	Residential Update (verbal)	K Lord
	Virtual School Draft Headteachers Report	L Hallas
	Public Items:	
	Children’s Performance Highlight Report	O Rix/ L Hallas / V Metherringham /G Addy
	Virtual School Draft Headteachers Report	L Hallas
	Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)	Cllr Reynolds / L Hallas
	Children’s Ambition Board Update (verbal)	K Lord / V Metherringham
Updates from Board Members on interaction with services	Board Members	
Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan	J Harris	

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2023/24

<p>Tuesday 5th December 2023</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 23rd November 2023</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 27th November 2023</i></p>	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Service acknowledgements and awards (verbal)</p> <p>Service Updates</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>Annual Health Report – Looked After Children Health Outcomes</p> <p>Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care</p> <p>Update on Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SQD’s)</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Childrens Ambition Board Update</p>	<p align="center">J Hanna / L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy</p> <p align="center">J Hanna</p> <p align="center">V Metheringham / J Hanna</p> <p align="center">J Hanna / L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy</p> <p align="center">G Addy</p> <p align="center">Nick Libell/ H Sanderson</p> <p align="center">N Mostowfi/ J Hanna</p> <p align="center">Cllr Reynolds / L Hallas</p> <p align="center">K Lord /V Metheringham</p>

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	<p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Next Steps (verbal)</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan</p>	<p align="center">Board Members</p> <p align="center">J Hanna/ V Metheringham</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>
<p>Tuesday 23rd January 2024</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 11th January 2024</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 15th January 2024</i></p>	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p>Residential Update</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Head of Service Update</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>The Voice of Children and Young People and Care Experienced Young People</p> <p>Sufficiency Strategy</p>	<p align="center">J Hanna / L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy</p> <p align="center">J Hanna</p> <p align="center">J Hanna / L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy</p> <p align="center">J Hanna</p> <p align="center">Anna Gledhill</p>

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	<p>Fostering Annual Report</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Children’s Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan</p>	<p align="center">Anna Gledhill</p> <p align="center">K Lord / V Metheringham</p> <p align="center">Cllr Reynolds / L Hallas</p> <p align="center">V Metheringham/ K Lord</p> <p align="center">Board Members J Harris</p>
<p align="center">Tuesday 5th March 2024</p> <p align="center"><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 22nd February 2024</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 26th February 2024</i></p>	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p>Youth Engagement Service – Our Looked After Children</p> <p>Children’s Residential Homes – Overview</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Head of Service Update</p>	<p align="center">J Hanna / L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy/I Mottershaw</p> <p align="center">I Mottershaw</p> <p align="center">J Hanna</p> <p align="center">J Hanna</p>

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	<p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>The Voice of Children and Young People and Care Experienced Young People</p> <p>Statement of Purpose for Residential Care (TBC)</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Children’s Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda</p>	<p align="center">J Hanna / L Hallas / V Metheringham /G Addy</p> <p align="center">J Hanna</p> <p align="center">K Lord</p> <p align="center">Cllr Reynolds /L Hallas</p> <p align="center">V Metheringham/ K Lord</p> <p align="center">Board Members</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>
<p>Tuesday 23rd April 2024</p> <p align="center"><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 11th April 2024</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 15th April 2024</i></p>	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Cancelled – No business</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Head of Service Update (verbal update)</p> <p>Independent Visitors Scheme Update</p>	<p align="center">J Hanna</p> <p align="center">S Miles/ L Fearnley</p>

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	Terms of Reference of the Board	J Hanna
	Review of Corporate Parenting Strategy (verbal update)	J Hanna
	Update from Fostering Diagnostic Visit	S Miles/ L Fearnley
	The Voice of Children and Young People and Care Experienced Young People (verbal update) (Joel Hanna)	J Hanna
	Report of Care Leavers Ambassadors Event	Stephanie Hill/ Lauren Stephenson
	Updates from Board Members on interaction with services	Board Members
	Corporate Parenting Board Agenda	J Harris
	-	

Standing Items (as on Agenda Plan)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Attendance by Strategic Director Update on the Role of Corporate Parent

- (SD Growth and Regeneration) Last seen March 2022
- (SD Environment and Climate Change – Last seen March 2022
- (SD CCG’s Chief Officer – Last seen February 2022)
- (SD Children’s Services – September 2022
- (SD Adults and health – January TBC)
- (SD Corporate Strategy/Public Health – tbc)
- (Police Colleague (TBC)

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Children's Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children's Homes
Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)
Children's Ambition Board Update (verbal)
Updates from Board Members on interaction with services
Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

Items for consideration /to schedule :

Statement of Purpose for Fostering
Statement of Purpose for Residential Care
Report on Accommodation
Fostering Annual Report
Pathway planning report
Missing report
The Sufficiency Strategy Update
Supported Lodgings Scheme
Supported Lodgings / Post 18 Provision
Report of Adoption – to consult with OAWY new municipal year
A report from the virtual School re Post 16 attainment.
Ethnicity of LAC and foster carers.
IHA Update

Annual / 6 monthly reports:-

- 6 monthly report on Children's Rights (Oct to March) (June)
- Annual Report on work of the Children's Rights) April onwards
- 6 monthly report on Independent Visitors Scheme (Oct to March)
- Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care (January)
- Annual report on children who go missing from care

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- Annual report on children and young people placed outside the Kirklees boundary
- Annual Health Report (report on health of looked after children) December
- Annual Report on Kirklees Fostering Service January
- OAWY – Annual (highlights report on Kirklees performance data)
- OAWY – 6 monthly report (June/July)