

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 20 March 2017
Title of report: Preparation for Independence

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Director of Resources? Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director (Legal Governance and Monitoring)?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Erin Hill

Electoral wards affected: ALL
Ward councillors consulted: NIL
Public or private: PUBLIC

1. Purpose of report

To provide an update to the Corporate Parenting Board with regard to the Commissioners report to the Department for Education (DfE) & the Secretary of State on her recommendations for the next steps for of Children's Social Care in Kirklees.

2. Summary

The report was due for submission on 31st March and was to include recommendations for the immediate improvement of services and about whether different arrangements, such as a Children's Trust, would be the most effective way forward.

Eleanor's report was been drafted and has been shared with the Council's senior leadership. Some minor changes were requested and these have now been incorporated by the Commissioner.

The final report, including recommendations was submitted to the Minister week ending April 9th 2017. This does mean that there is a slight delay in the overall process, but Eleanor and senior leadership are in full agreement that the final report should be detailed, comprehensive and as helpful as possible in developing our services.

On receipt of the report the Minister will consider Eleanor's findings and decide whether he is minded to accept her recommendations. He will then issue a direction – a final decision on future arrangements – we don't expect this to happen until May or possibly June.

Whilst it is fully understood that Board members will be keen to know more about Eleanor's recommendations; as this is a report to the Government and not the Council, we are not permitted to share it with you at this stage

As it is important that the Board is kept up to date we are working with Eleanor and the DfE to agree the amount of detail we can provide and when this can be provided. It is hoped that a summary of Eleanor's report can be shared before the end of this month.

3. Information required to take a decision

4. Implications for the Council

Will be within the body of the Commissioner's report.

5. Consultees and their opinions

6. Next steps

As soon as it possible to do so the contents of the Commissioners report will be shared with members of the Board.

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

- That the board take note of the information contained within the report.

8. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

9. Contact officer

Julie Mepham - Head of Service for Corporate Parenting Julie.mepham@kirklees.gov.uk

10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

.

11. Assistant Director responsible

Anne Coyle