

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 17/7/2017
Title of report: Corporate Parent Service update

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)?	
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Erin Hill

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

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to brief the Corporate Parenting Panel on the current developments in the Corporate Parenting Service and the plans for the future of the service. This will include a brief analysis of the strengths, challenges and opportunities within the service.

2. Summary

The Corporate Parenting Service encompasses: looked after children, leaving care, residential homes, fostering, placement finding, connected person assessments & support and the contact service.

Service plans are in place and are reviewed and updated monthly by the service managers who report directly to the Head of Service. All updates are fed into the Improvement Plan.

Assessments of 20 foster carers are underway and we are hopeful that this will give us a net increase in the first half of the year of 15 new carers. With a proposed recruitment target of 21 net carers each year we are on track in terms of our fostering recruitment plan.

As per the previous update Pathway planning training continues to be rolled across the LAC and leaving care service. The impact of this is an improvement in the quality of plans. At time of writing

90% of plans are on the system. This is really positive for our young people and plans now reflect their involvement and voice.

The number of care plans has improved significantly as has the number of up to date assessments for every child. Staff have worked very hard to ensure compliance.

We have recruited to 2 permanent social worker posts and are about to go out to recruitment for a LAC team manager and 6 social worker posts. In addition we are recruiting to 5 Personal Advisor posts. It is envisaged that we will have permanent staff in place by September. It should be noted that there are very few agency staff in the Corporate Parenting Service and that case load numbers are 14/15 for the LAC social workers, 18 for the PAs and 16 for the supervising social workers.

The refurbishment of the new drop base under Civic 1 is moving at pace and the builders are in, the designs are in place and young people have been involved throughout in terms of the plans and next steps. We will be working with HR to establish business/admin traineeships for care experienced young people to staff reception and undertake other administration tasks as required by the service. This plan is in its very early stages and the Board will be updated as we develop this role.

The PA service needs to be extended in 2017/18 to be compliant, as per Guidance and Regulations and the Ofsted report recommendations, to ensure that all looked after young people aged 16+ have a PA to the age of 25. Support will be needed from senior managers and the Corporate Parent Board to ensure this happens in a timely way.

The Sufficiency strategy continues to be worked on with partners and an update will be presented to the Board in September.

3. Information required to take a decision

That the Board read the report and take into consideration the content of the summary.

4. Implications for the Council

Increasing the sufficiency of accommodation will have very substantial cost savings for the authority. This will also enable us to provide the best quality of care to our children that we will manage and control.

5. Consultees and their opinions

6. Next steps

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
Julie.mepham@kirklees.gov.uk

10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

11. Assistant Director responsible: Anne Coyle