

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 30th April 2018

Title of report: Corporate Parenting Strategy for Kirklees 2018-2020 - Corporate Parenting function and the seven principles of Corporate Parenting

Purpose of report: To provide Corporate Parenting Board with information about the Corporate Parenting function and the seven principles of Corporate Parenting set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

To recommend an approach to developing a Corporate Parenting Strategy for Kirklees.

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?	not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Sal Tariq (Elaine McShane) 19.4.18
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Viv Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private:

1. **Summary**

In February 2018, the statutory guidance (Appendix 1) on how local authorities are to fulfil their new duties as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 was published with the key implications for Corporate Parenting.

The guidance is about the role of local authorities and the application of corporate parenting principles as set out in section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Local authorities must have regard to the seven needs identified in the Children and Social Work Act when exercising their functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers (relevant children and former relevant children).

At Corporate Parenting Board on 12th March 2018 it was agreed that a review of the current Kirklees Council Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-19 is required. The new strategy will align with the seven corporate parenting principles, identify key areas of existing good practice, compliance and outcomes and also consider where current arrangements could be improved and enhanced.

2. **What are the corporate parenting principles?**

The principles:

In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- 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
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

The corporate parenting principles do not exist in a vacuum. They should shape the mind-set and culture of every part of a local authority in how it carries out all of its functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers.

3. **Information required to take a decision**

No decision is required from this report.

4. Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

This strategy sets out how Kirklees Council intends to fulfil its corporate parenting responsibilities in a way that puts children and young people at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services. It forms the framework in which Kirklees staff, elected members and relevant partners will work.

3.4 Reducing demand of services

3.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

4. Consultees and their opinions

n/a

5. Next steps

Establish a small working group to revise the Strategy and invite the Chair and other Elected Members of Corporate Parenting Board to contribute.

Develop a draft Kirklees Corporate Parenting Strategy for consideration at Corporate Parenting Board on the 30th April 2018.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Officers recommend that the Corporate Parenting Board support the delivery of this strategy for working with our partner agencies to ensure children and young people in our care and care leavers are safe healthy and able to realise their ambitions, and aspirations we have for their future. The strategy has taken account what our children looked after children and care leavers have told us about their experiences of being in care, as well as linking with the key priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan and our Sufficiency Statement.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

8. Contact officer

Steve Comb – Head of Corporate Parenting
Steve.comb@kirklees.gov.uk

Tina Cooper – New Council Programme Manager
Tina.Cooper@kirklees.gov.uk

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers
Statutory guidance for local authorities.

10. **Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)