

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 14 Feb 2019
Title of report: Developing Corporate Parenting Board

Purpose of report

To facilitate a discussion relating to the future focus and work plan of the Board.

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?	NA
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Steve Comb (on behalf of Elaine McShane) 5.2.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	NA
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick Childrens Portfolio

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. **Summary**

A request to agree the re focusing of the Corporate Parenting Board on outcomes and opportunities for our children and young people, harnessing a strong partnership across the council acting in the best interests of our children and young people promoting the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people encouraging them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take those views into account. At the same time promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for our children and young people making sure they have access to services that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work preparing for adulthood and independent living. By focusing the work of the Corporate Parenting Board on outcomes for our children and young people, we will ensure a strong partnership across the council and other partners.

The Department for Education 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 wellbeing, 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.

By refreshing the focus of the Board we will ensure that the council is achieving best practice in relation to its Corporate Parenting responsibilities, addressing the requirements of the seven key principles detailed above. It is recommended that the Board pro-actively continues to further broaden its focus beyond routine monitoring of data, and approval of reports and strategies, this would include:

Regular direct feedback from a range of children in care and care leavers using a variety of methods.

The engagement by invitation to the Board of senior officers from across the council and partner agencies ensuring they understand the corporate parenting responsibility for themselves and of their department or agency.

Awareness raising by Board members relating to the needs and challenges faced by children in our care and care leavers to include key themed meetings such as fostering recruitment, adoption, the provision of employment opportunities, education, health, housing. The Board driving its aspiration both within and outside of the council for improved outcomes for children in our care.

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

The views and agreement of Board members.

3. **Implications for the Council**

- 3.1 **Working with People** to expand Corporate Parenting awareness across the council
- 3.2 **Working with Partners** to ensure all partners are aware of their responsibilities to children in care
- 3.3 **Place Based Working**
Not applicable
- 3.4 **Improving Outcomes for Children** by focussing the work of the Corporate Parenting Board on the seven key principles suggested by the Department for Education
- 3.5 **Reducing demand of services**
Not applicable
- 3.6 **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**
Not applicable

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Members of the Corporate Parenting Board.

5. **Next steps**

After discussion and agreement the forward plan of the Board will be updated.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

- 6.1 That the forward plan of the Board would focus on the wider responsibility of the council as a corporate parent, and the engagement of a wide range of partners both within and outside of the council.
- 6.2 That the Board broadens its agenda beyond routine monitoring of data reports and strategies utilising its unique position to raise awareness and further improve outcomes for our children in care and care leavers.
- 6.3 That Members make suggestions on future areas of focus for consideration by the Board.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting

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

DfE Statutory Guidance Corporate Parenting Feb 2018
LGA Corporate Parenting Resource Pack

10. **Service Director responsible**

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