

REPORT TITLE: Amendment to arrangements for Corporate Parenting Board

Meeting:	Annual Council (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)
Date:	22/05/2024
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Kendrick
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No Not applicable
Purpose of Report 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 '	
Recommendations <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. • Members are asked to consider the proposed changes to the Corporate parenting Board. 	
Reasons for Recommendations <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 developments 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. • These changes were considered, and recommended, by Corporate Governance & Audit Committee on 10th May 2024. 	
Resource Implications: There are no identified additional resource implications.	

Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford 9/4/24
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	

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 recommendations 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.

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 a 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 including 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 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

To implement the changes, subject to approval.

8. Contact officer

Joel.Hanna@Kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

N/A

10. Appendices

Draft Terms of Reference.

11. Service Director responsible

Vicky Metheringham, Child Protection and Family Support