

Name of meeting: Annual Council

Date: 24th May 2017

Title of report: Corporate Parenting Board

Purpose of report: To re-establish Corporate Parenting Board for the 2017-2018 Municipal Year.

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 Director & name	Yes – 15/5/17
Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director for Financial Management, IT, Risk and Performance?	
Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director - Legal Governance and Monitoring?	Yes – 8/5/17
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Erin Hill – Family Support and Child Protection

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

At the meeting of Council on 24 June 2015, a decision was taken to establish a Corporate Parenting Board. This report seeks approval for the Board to be re-constituted for the 2017-2018 Municipal Year on a 1:1:1:1 ratio based upon the Terms of Reference as set out in this report at Appendix 1.

2. Information required to take a decision

The Corporate Parenting Board supports the delivery of a Corporate Parenting Strategy across the Council and is driving the improvements in corporate parenting as identified in the Improvement Action Plan arising from the recommendations made by Ofsted following their Inspection in September 2016.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

The Corporate Parenting Board supports the delivery of EIP for children on the edge of care, those looked after by the Local Authority and those who have left the care of the Local Authority. The Board seeks to ensure that young people receive the most appropriate interventions which will minimise the risks they face and which secure the best outcomes for them in the long-term.

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

The Corporate Parenting Board is responsible for securing the best educational, training and employment outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. Specific improvements are being overseen by the Board in relation to the high numbers of care leavers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

The Corporate Parenting Board, through its corporate parenting strategy, is directly responsible for improving outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.

3.4 Reducing demand of services

The Corporate Parenting Board works across the children's services landscape to ensure that children are only brought into care if that is the right decision for them and their families. A key priority for the Board is that of placement / fostering sufficiency in order that young people stay within Kirklees, where appropriate, and the demand for high cost placements outside the district is reduced.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

5. Next steps

If approved, the Board will be re-constituted on a 1:1:1:1 political ratio.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 1) That approval be given to the re-establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board for the 2017-2018 Municipal Year.
- 2) That approval be given to the membership of the Board being on a 1:1:1:1 ratio.
- 3) That the Terms of Reference of the Board be updated from those previously approved on 25 May 2016, as set out in this report at Appendix 1.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

The Cabinet portfolio holder recommends that the Corporate Parenting Board is re-established for the 2017-18 Municipal Year with membership on a 1:1:1:1 ratio and with the updated Terms of Reference at Appendix 1.

8. Contact officer

Martin Green

Deputy Assistant Director – Skills, Progression and Enterprise.

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Annual Council 2015 – Establishment of Corporate Parenting Board

Annual Council 2016 – Re-establishment of Corporate Parenting Board and update to Terms of Reference

10. Assistant Director responsible

Anne Coyle

Interim Assistant Director – Child Support and Family Protection

Purpose: To ensure that the Council fulfills its responsibilities as good corporate parents for all their children in care.

The Corporate Parenting Board is accountable to Full Council through its Cabinet. Initial reporting of concerns will be escalated by the cabinet portfolio holder to appropriate governance bodies including Cabinet.

The Board will meet for a minimum of six times per annum.

Membership:

Cabinet Portfolio Holder Member
Elected Members representing all political parties
Service Director, Family Support & Child Protection
Head of Service - Corporate Parenting
Virtual School Head Teacher
Virtual School Chair of Governing Body
Service Director Learning and Early Support
Health Commissioning Representative
Head of Children's Quality Assurance
Participation Officer

Representatives from a range of services and partner agencies will be invited as appropriate and will receive papers including: Director of Children's Services, Kirklees College, Calderdale and Kirklees Careers, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Sufficiency Team, Performance Team, Kirklees Foster Carers Network and Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing

Terms of Reference:

- 1 To consider and recommend ways in which the Council can improve the life chances of all children in care and care leavers.
- 2 To advise the Council's Cabinet and other governance bodies of actions that need to be taken.
- 3 To bring to the attention of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee any areas which may warrant Scrutiny consideration
- 4 To ensure there are good partnerships between council departments and partner agencies and that Council services and partners are held to account for their strategies and operational delivery.
- 5 To provide an opportunity for the voice of our children and young people to inform the considerations and recommendations of the Board.
- 6 To maintain a strategic overview of new developments, initiatives, plans, policies and strategies that impact on services for children and young people in or leaving our care.
- 7 To monitor the performance of the Council by receiving regular progress reports on all performance data relating to Corporate Parenting Services.
- 8 To receive regular reports on the progress and needs of care leavers including employment, further education, training, housing and health.

9. To consider statutory reports from the Adoption and Fostering Services, Independent Reviewing Officers, Residential and Youth Offending Teams and make recommendations.
10. To agree an annual work programme setting out its key priorities and areas for action.
- 11 To prepare an Annual Report in May in the areas considered by the Board, including its work programme, for presentation to Council and Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 12 To acknowledge and celebrate in the achievements of children and young people in care and support and participate in annual celebration events.