

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 16th April 2019
Title of report: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019-21

Purpose of report

1. To present to Cabinet the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019-21 (Appendix A); and
2. To ask that Cabinet approve the Strategy operating from the date of Cabinet approval to the end of 2021 calendar 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?	Yes Significant effect on two or more electoral wards
Key Decision Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Yes Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs 29 th March 2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)?	Eamonn Croston (James Anderson) 4 th April 2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft 8 th April 2019
Cabinet member portfolio	Children's – Cllr Viv Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?): Yes (no personal information included in this report)

1. **Summary**

The Strategy (Appendix A) sets out the Council's framework for delivering on its corporate parenting responsibilities so that our children in care and care leavers thrive. This includes the Council's approach to developing and deepening a corporate parenting ethos across all services and amongst elected members so that every part of the Council champions the needs of our children in care and care leavers.

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

We have developed a Corporate Parenting Strategy to evidence, guide, and be accountable on our commitments to develop a strong Corporate Parenting ethos and to provide a context for existing key strategies that benefit our children in care and care leavers.

Ofsted noted that we don't have a Corporate Parenting Strategy. There will likely be an inspection in Summer or Autumn this year.

The Strategy will be reviewed in Summer 2020.

We have considered our duties under the Equality Act 2010 Section 149. An Equality Impact Assessment for this Strategy is included in the papers (appendix B), and will be uploaded to the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Index:

<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/equality-impact-assessments.aspx>

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People**

Corporate parenting means listening to and working with our children and care leavers, not making decisions about them without their involvement. This is therefore working with them, not doing to them.

3.2 **Working with Partners**

Our various partnership boards will have an important oversight role in the delivery on this strategy.

1.3 **Place Based Working**

Corporate parenting requires tailored support to our children in care and care leavers, and recognises that their environment can make the difference between a stable secure environment and one where the child or care leaver does not feel comfortable.

3.4 **Improving outcomes for children**

The Strategy emphasises effective developing an effective corporate parenting ethos throughout the organisation, developing the aspirations and achievements, health and wellbeing, and independence of our children in care and care leavers.

1.5 **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

N/A

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Within Council services, discussions have taken place with colleagues in Corporate Parenting, No.11, Children's Rights, Early Support, Assessment and Intervention, Education, Safeguarding, and Inclusion, and Health Improvement (Public Health). Comments from Cabinet members and senior officers have been acted on and led to changes, including a clear review date, more up to date figures, and better presentation.

Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum were consulted in July 2018 and February 2019. Their artwork and priorities are included at the beginning of the strategy.

An earlier draft was sent to the Kirklees Fostering Network for feedback.

Corporate Parenting Board was presented with an earlier draft. They asked for more up to date figures and made various suggestions on additional content, which was subsequently included.

Children's Scrutiny Panel have been consulted informally because other items have taken priority for the March agenda and the April session would not have been early enough engagement for Scrutiny. Comments from the Chair of Children's Scrutiny led to the one-page summary of the strategy on p. 7. The Chair expressed approval for how it puts various strategies into context in one place.

5. Next steps and timelines

- Communication this year of the final strategy across elected members, Council services, and partners.
- In Summer 2020 the Strategy will be reviewed and refreshed by the Head of Corporate Parenting.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

For Cabinet to approve the Strategy operating from the date of Cabinet approval to the end of 2021 calendar year.

Consultees have expressed support for the strategy's approach. We would like a Corporate Parenting Strategy to be in place as soon as possible so we can begin sharing it and developing and deepening our corporate parenting ethos.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

For Cabinet to approve the Strategy operating from the date of Cabinet approval to the end of 2021 calendar year.

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

LMT 25th March – Approved to go to Cabinet
Children's Portfolio Holder's Briefing 18th March – Approved to go to LMT
ET 19th March – Approved to go to LMT
Children's SLT 14th March – Approved to go to ET

10. Service Director responsible

Elaine McShane
Family Support and Child Protection