

COUNCIL



Report subject	Establishing a Corporate Parenting Board
Meeting date	16 July 2019
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To seek approval for establishing within the Constitution a Corporate Parenting Board.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>(a) The Council establish a Corporate Parenting Board in the Council's Constitution</p> <p>(b) (i) Paragraphs 4 – 13 of this report form the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board and (ii) the Terms of Reference are to be kept under review by the Board, as its role develops</p> <p>(c) The Council make arrangements to nominate elected members to the Board</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>To provide a mechanism for children in care and care experienced young people to share their views on the issues which affect them and to support the Council in meeting its statutory responsibility as Corporate Parents and through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Driving high aspirations and expectations for our children in care and care experienced young people - Providing a regular forum for elected members, children in care and care experienced young people, key officers and partners to work together to improve outcomes - Holding BCP and partners to account where outcomes are not good enough

Portfolio Holder(s):	Sandra Moore, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
Corporate Director	Judith Ramsden, Corporate Director - Children's Services
Contributors	Claire Webb, Programme Manger Karen Tompkins, Deputy Head of Democratic Services
Wards	All wards
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. Every councillor and officer within a council has a responsibility to act for children in care and care experienced young people (also known as care leavers) as a parent would for their own child. This is known as being Corporate Parents. It is one of the most important roles that BCP has.
2. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined for the first time in law the responsibility of corporate parents to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences. Under the Children Act 2004, local authorities have a duty to promote cooperation between 'relevant partners', including the police, the NHS and education providers, while those partners have a duty to cooperate with the local authority in turn. Statutory guidance sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services.
3. This report asks Council to consider establishing a BCP Corporate Parenting Board ("the Board") to support the council in meeting its statutory duties and achieving the very best outcomes for our children in care and care experienced young people. The Board does not replace individual responsibilities and Board members will act within their individual decision making powers.

Purpose and role of the Board

4. The purpose of the Board is to:
 - Drive high aspirations and expectations for our children in care and care experienced young people, championing their needs and aspirations
 - Provide a regular forum for elected members, children in care and care experienced young people, key officers and partners to work together to improve outcomes
 - Hold BCP Council and partners to account where outcomes are not good enough
 - Develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy

5. The Board will do this by:

- Being driven by the priorities of our children in care and care experienced young people, reporting back to the Children in care Council and Care Leavers Form on the impact of the Board work
- Challenging the Council and partners on behalf of our children in care ensuring that we set high standards, ambitions and goals for them
- Having clear oversight of all our work for children in care and care experienced young people, exploring issues in depth where needed
- Receiving and scrutinising regular performance data and reports on: key lines of enquiry, issues raised directly by the children and young people, key indicators and outcomes for children in care and care experienced young people
- Robustly scrutinising and challenging performance and outcomes, through partners agreeing actions to improve outcomes and escalating issues where required, and tracking the outcomes of those actions to ensure impact
- Share expertise and intelligence, developing in partnership creative solutions to complex issues
- Involving other services leads and partners in its work as required

Driven by the needs of children care and care experienced young people

6. The priorities of our children in care and care experienced young people will drive the work of the Board, and it provides an important mechanism for children in care and care experienced young people to share their views on the issues which affect them.
7. The Board will create an appropriate environment which is inclusive for children and young people to fully participate and be involved in decisions through active engagement. At the first meeting of the Board the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum will be asked to share their views on what makes a good Corporate Parenting Board, so that the Board can incorporate that into its ways of working and forward plan.

Membership

8. Proposed membership is no more than 10, comprising:

- Portfolio Holder for Children and Families (1)
- Elected Members (3)
- BCP Corporate Director - Children's Services (1)
- BCP Service Director – Children's Social Care (1)
- BCP Service Director – Housing (1)
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (1)

- Learning Partnership (1)
 - Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum (1)
 - Foster carer representative (1)
9. The Council is asked to make arrangements to appoint 3 elected members to the Board.
10. It is proposed that the Board will be able to co-opt/invite appropriate representatives to attend meetings as necessary. As the Board develops it will be able to extend formal membership as appropriate.
11. The Board will be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families, the Vice-Chair of the Board shall be elected from the membership of the Board at the first meeting. In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair shall chair the meeting.

Meetings of the Board

12. The Quorum shall be 3 members of the Board.
13. The Board shall meet no less than four times a year and a calendar of meeting will be created.

Summary of financial implications

14. There are no financial implications, support to the Board will be met from within existing resources.

Summary of legal implications

15. The Board will be established in the Council's Constitution and as such will adhere to its constitutional rules around the convening of meetings and publication of business.

Summary of human resources implications

16. Administrative and governance support to the Board will be provided by Legal & Democratic Services.
17. Technical support in preparing reports for the Board and giving advice to the Board in relation to children in care and care experienced young people will be provided by Children's Services.

Summary of environmental impact

18. None arising from establishing the Board.

Summary of public health implications

19. None arising from establishing the Board.

Summary of equality implications

20. The establishment of this Board will meet the Equality and Diversity requirements. It will actively promote improving outcomes for a group of young people who face inequalities nationally as well as locally in terms of education and health outcomes.

Summary of risk assessment

21. The absence of a Corporate Parenting Board potentially risks the Council being less effective in its role as a Corporate Parent, with a risk of reduced challenge to the Council and its partners.

Background papers

Published works: Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers Statutory guidance for local authorities, Department for Education February 2018

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.