

PAPER B

Purpose: For Decision



Committee report

Committee	CABINET
Date	13 FEBRUARY 2020
Title	CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE
Report of	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Isle of Wight Council has a Corporate Parenting Board, whose role is to lead on ensuring that the corporate parenting responsibilities of the council and partner agencies, towards looked after children and care leavers, are being met. This is a non-decision making board and not a formal committee of the council.
2. The Corporate Parenting Board has recently reviewed its terms of reference. The terms of reference (appendix 1) set out the council's vision for children in care and care leavers, the purpose of the board, the accountability of the board, roles and responsibilities, membership and support to the board.
3. As the Corporate Parenting Board is a multi-agency advisory panel to the Full Council and to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills it is necessary for cabinet and full council to approve the terms of reference
4. It is recommended that cabinet and full council formally adopt the revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Board.

BACKGROUND

5. The Corporate Parenting Board's role is to lead on ensuring the corporate parenting responsibilities of the multi-agency partnership are being met, in line with the Children Act 1989. Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the

general duty of the council in relation to children looked after by it; to safeguard and promote the welfare of these children, ensuring effective, individualised support and access to services. This duty is inclusive of both children and young people with care orders and those provided with accommodation. 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 for looked-after children and young people.

6. This responsibility is not just up to the lead member or the staff within Children's Services. We need everyone looking out for our most vulnerable children and young people, and every councillor has their role to play to ensure children in care and care experienced young people have a sense of belonging and are given the same opportunities as their peers. The responsibility and accountability for corporate parenting must be shared across the local authority and its partners.
7. The Isle of Wight Council has a well-established Corporate Parenting Board, which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills. The membership includes elected Members, representatives from Children's Services, Adult Services, Housing Services, NHS Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group, children and young people from HYPE (the Isle of Wight's Children in care council) and foster carers.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

8. The Corporate Parenting Board's role in ensuring that children in care and care leavers life chances are maximised by partnership working across agencies specifically relate to the areas of 'Opportunity' and 'Wellbeing' within the Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022. Of particular relevance are the following corporate outcomes:-
 - All young people have the best start in life so that they can fulfil their potential
 - Vulnerable people are supported and protected

CONSULTATION

9. The revised terms of reference have been developed by members of the Corporate Parenting Board and were discussed at the last board meeting on 4 December 2019. Some small amendments were made as a result of these discussion and are included within the revised terms of reference.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no budgetary implications in relation to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. As previously highlighted Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the general duty of the council in relation to children looked after by it; to safeguard and promote the welfare of these children, ensuring effective, individualised support and access to services. This duty is inclusive of both children and young people with care orders and those provided with accommodation. 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 for looked-after children and young people.
12. Having a clear term of reference for the council's Corporate Parenting Board ensures clarity regarding the purpose and the roles and responsibilities of the board's members in ensuring that the corporate parenting responsibilities of the council, and partner agencies are being met.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

13. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
14. The revised terms of reference have no implications in relation to the Equality Act 2010.

OPTIONS

15. Option A -To adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board as set out in appendix i.
16. Option B – To retain the existing Terms of Reference, which is not explicit with regards to the responsibilities identified in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

RISK MANAGEMENT

17. If the revised terms of refence are not adopted there is a risk that the corporate parenting board's purpose and roles and responsibilities will not be explicit to Elected Members, other members of the board and importantly children, young people and carers. The corporate parenting board holds an important scrutiny function in terms of ensuring that children in care and care leavers life chances are maximised by the partnership working across agencies.

EVALUATION

18. Option A will ensure clarity regarding the role and responsibility of the board and covers the responsibilities identified in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

19. Option A - To adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board as set out in appendix 1.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

20. [Appendix 1](#) - Revised Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference.

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