

Corporate Parenting Board

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	1 November 2018
Officer	Nick Jarman – Corporate Director for Children’s Services.
Subject of Report	Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) – Draft New Terms of Reference in preparation for the new CPB strategy.
Executive Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Statutory Introduction of The Corporate Parenting Principles requires the Local Authority to review the Corporate Parenting duty and function. — New Terms of Reference are recommended in conjunction with the Corporate Parenting Board Strategy revision. — The Corporate Parenting Board are required to consider the strategy and Terms of Reference prior to submission to Dorset County Council’s Cabinet.
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed with the Children in Care Council (CiCC) as part of the new Corporate Parenting Strategy.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation - The Children and Social Work Act 2017. • Statutory Guidance DfE 2018 - – Applying Corporate Parenting Principles to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
	<p>Budget:</p> <p>No implications identified.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: MEDIUM Residual Risk LOW</p>

	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p>Ensuring children in Dorset enjoy a safe, healthy, independent and prosperous future are key to the ambition of the council to improve the lives of people in Dorset. Local Authority Corporate Parents have a duty to make sure the Statutory Corporate Parenting Principles are upheld to ensure vulnerable children and young people have an equal opportunity to enjoy and achieve the ambition of the council.</p>
	Other Implications: None
Recommendation	That the Corporate Parenting Board recommend the new Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference to the Cabinet for approval.
Reason for Recommendation	New Terms of Reference are required in order to establish a new Corporate Parenting Board in preparation for a new Corporate Parenting Strategy and Dorset Council.
Appendices	DfE 2018 - Corporate Parenting Principles -as listed
Background Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — DfE (2018) Statutory guidance - Applying Corporate Parenting Principles to Looked After Children and Care Leavers. — Gov.uk (2018) - Framework for the inspections of local authority children’s services. (ILACS) — DfE (2013) Statutory guidance – Directors of children’s services: roles and responsibilities — The Children and Social Work Act 2017 — LGA (2017) – Corporate parenting resource pack — LGA (2012) – 10 questions to ask if you’re scrutinising services for looked-after children.
Officer Contact	<p>Name: Madeleine Hall – Corporate Parenting Officer</p> <p>Email: m.hall@dorsetcc.gov.uk.</p>

1. Aims and Principles

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Board (the Board) will assist Dorset County Council and its partners to understand and fully comply with legal duties and responsibilities across all services, as they discharge those duties to looked after children and care leavers. This will continue as a key responsibility of Dorset Council from 1st April 2019.
- 1.2 The Corporate Parenting Board will promote member and workforce engagement, commitment and understanding of the Corporate Parenting principles introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Ensuring the local authority is ‘an active, strong and committed corporate parent – in line with the corporate parenting principles’.¹

¹ DfE 2018 Statutory Guidance on Corporate Parenting Principles – ‘one of the criteria for assessing Corporate Parenting and obtaining a ‘Good’ judgement under the Ofsted framework for (ILACS)

- 1.3 The Corporate Parenting Board will hold to account the council and its partners for their role in the delivery of services and statutory responsibilities to looked after children and care leavers as recommended in statutory Corporate Parenting guidance.²
- 1.4 The Board will have access to good qualitative and quantitative management information from the council and its partners, in order to monitor performance effectively against outcomes and track delivery of promises and commitments as stated to the Children in Care Council.
- 1.5 The Board will ensure the voice of children and young people influence decision making and service development and delivery.

2. Board Management

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Board will meet a minimum of seven times a year. Corporate Parenting Board meetings will be attended by members of the Children in Care Council and their representatives, with support from the Children's Participation Service.
- 2.2 The Board will have regular membership from:-
 - i. Seven elected members of the Council on a politically proportionate basis.
 - ii. Children in Care Council (CiCC) representatives.
 - iii. Although not a full member of the board. The Lead Member for Children's services (s) is invited to attend all meetings³.
- 2.3 The Board will have regular representation from the Children's Services Directorate in the form of:
 - i. The Director of Children's Services (s)
 - ii. The Safeguarding and Standards Lead Officer
 - iii. The Lead Officer for Looked After Children
 - iv. The Corporate Parenting Officer
- 2.4 The Board will request regular representation from
 - i. Relevant Partners⁴ (s.10. CA 2004)
 - ii. The virtual School head (s)
 - iii. Children's Rights, Advocacy and Participation Services.
 - iv. Children's Health and Mental Health Service

² Applying Corporate Parenting Principles to Looked After Children and Care Leavers – Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities 2018

³ Statutory roles and responsibilities directors of children's services.gov.uk annotated as (s)

⁴ Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 defines relevant partners as including: the district council; the local policing body and the chief officer of police; probation board; any provider of probation services; youth offending team; the Secretary of State in relation to functions under sections 2 and 3 of the Offender Management Act 2007; NHS England; Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs); the governing body of a maintained school; an academy or City Technology College or City Technology College of the Arts; the governing body of an institution within the further education sector; the Secretary of State in relation to functions under section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973.

- v. The Police and Youth Offending Service
- vi. Foster Carers representative (or other parent forum)
- vii. Also in non-regular attendance - sufficiently senior representatives from Children's Services Directorate and other directorates and agencies to attend for specific issues in order to offer advice and assistance as requested by the Board.

3 Reporting and status

- 3.1 The Board will report to the Dorset County Council's Cabinet prior to 1st April 2019 and then to the executive of Dorset Council. The Board will also report to the Children in Care Council.
- 3.2 The Board is responsible for having an overview of all aspects of corporate parenting.
- 3.3 The Board will promote itself as having a scrutiny function for the service delivery to looked after children and care leavers
- 3.4 The aim of the Corporate Parenting Board is to oversee and ensure that the Council for Dorset upholds its Corporate Parenting responsibility as directed in statutory guidance and the Corporate Parenting strategy.
- 3.5 Every Councillor will be required to have an understanding of Corporate Parenting and as such the Council will circulate regular Corporate Parenting briefings. A Corporate Parenting handbook will also be made available to all elected Members.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 Members of the Corporate Parenting Board will be expected to uphold the following:
 - i Ensure the views, concerns and voice of children will be represented throughout the whole council.
 - ii To raise the profile of children in care and their carers, and to act as Champions for the needs and rights of children in care in their respective areas of responsibility.
 - iii To be creative, flexible and aspirational in meeting the needs of children in care.
 - iv To scrutinise resources for Corporate Parenting.
 - v To develop and regularly review a Corporate Parenting Strategy
 - vi To regularly review and update information available to Members on Corporate Parenting, such as the Corporate Parenting Handbook and Members induction information.
 - vii To review and oversee the Children's Services action plan to assist with scrutiny and continuous improvement to services to Looked After Children.

- viii Read agenda papers prior to meetings so that you are ready to contribute and discuss Corporate Parenting business
- ix Uphold and support Corporate Parenting decisions.
- x Listen respectfully to the views of fellow board members.
- xi Be willing to take on special tasks or attend additional meetings or functions.
- xii Declare any conflicts of interest should they arise.

5 Agenda and Purview

- 5.1 The focus of the Board will be to ensure the needs of children in care and care leavers are addressed and their life chances are maximised by improving the opportunities available to them through new initiatives and service development.
- 5.2 The Board will follow an annual rolling programme of recommended thematic and statutory agenda items in any particular order:-
 - i Regulation 44 Visits **s**, New Legislation, Serious Case Review and Regulatory Inspection updates.
 - ii Adoption and Permanence, Adoption Panel terms of reference and feedback from Panel **s**
 - iii Assessment Care Planning & Review **s**, Complaints and Representations **s**, Performance Data and Comparisons with other LAs, Children in Care from other LAs **s**
 - iv Health of Looked After Children **s**, Emotional wellbeing of looked after children
 - v Children missing from care and sexual exploitation **s**, Safeguarding
 - vi Fostering – recruitment, training and retention, Fostering Panel terms of reference and feedback from Panel **s**, Private Fostering and Family and Friends Care, Independent Fostering Agency providers.
 - vii Sufficiency Duty **s**, The financial cost of supporting children in care,
 - viii Education of looked after children **s**, Celebrating success
 - ix Consultation with young people, Advocacy and Independent Visitors, the Children in Care Council (CiCC)
 - x Leaving Care, Care Leavers Strategy.
 - xi Children on the Edge of Care, Children who are at risk of Offending and in Custody
 - xii The Children in Care Council Action Plan
 - xiii Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy and Plan. The Promise to Children.
 - xiv Children who are disabled and Children with Special Educational needs.
 - xv Ensure sufficiency and quality of accommodation for care leavers.

(**s** denotes reports that are required in legislative guidance to be discussed and agreed by the Board a minimum of once a year)

Nick Jarman
Corporate Director for Children's Services
September 2018

Appendix 1

Corporate parenting principles **The principles**

In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
4. 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
5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.