

1 September 2020	ITEM: 11
Corporate Parenting Committee	
Corporate Parenting Strategy	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non Key
Report of: Janet Simon, Strategic Lead, Children Looked After	
Accountable Assistant Director: Joe Tynan, Interim Assistant Director of Children's Services	
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

Corporate Parenting refers to the **partnerships between the local authority departments, services and associated agencies** who are collectively responsible for meeting the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers. Local authorities should care about children in their care, not just for them.

This informs members of their responsibilities as Corporate Parents and what work is being done to fulfil these.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Committee note their responsibilities as Corporate Parents.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The term 'corporate parent' is broadly understood in relation to how local authorities should approach their responsibilities for looked after children and care leavers. However, it is vital that all parts of a local authority beyond those directly responsible for care and pathway planning recognise they have a key role too.
- 2.2 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduces corporate parenting principles, which comprise of seven needs that local authorities in England must have regard to whenever they exercise a function in relation to looked-after children or care leavers (collectively referred to as looked-after children and young people).

- 2.3 The corporate parenting principles are intended to secure a better approach to fulfilling existing functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers and for the local authority to facilitate as far as possible secure, nurturing, and positive experiences for looked after children and young people and enable positive outcomes for them.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 None – Corporate Parenting responsibilities are a statutory responsibility.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To ensure members are aware of the corporate parenting responsibilities

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 None

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 When making key decisions about corporate policies our corporate parenting responsibilities should be considered and our children and young people prioritised.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by:

Michelle Hall

Management Accountant - Children's Services

There are no financial implications to the report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**

Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)

Local Authorities must, in carrying out functions in relation to the children and young people mentioned in subsection (2) Children and Social Work Act 2017, have regard to the need—

(a) To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;

(b) To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;

- (c) To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- (d) 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;
- (e) To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- (f) For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
- (g) To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

The children and young people mentioned in this subsection are—

- children who are looked after by a local authority, within the meaning given by section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989;
- relevant children within the meaning given by section 23A(2) of that Act;
- persons aged under 25 who are former relevant children within the meaning given by section 23C(1) of that Act

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by:

Rebecca Lee

Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities, Adults, Housing and Health Directorate

The Service is committed to practice, which promotes inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

Prioritisation of Corporate Parenting will have a direct impact on the outcomes for Children who are Looked After.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Children and Social Work Act 2017

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting – Defined Responsibilities
- Appendix 2: Corporate Parenting Committee – Terms of Reference
- Appendix 3: Corporate Parenting Engagement Plan 2020-2021
- Appendix 4: Corporate Parenting Committee Work Programme 2020-2021

Report Author:

Janet Simon, Strategic Lead, Children's Services