

24 June 2013**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****INTRODUCTION TO THE ROLE OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide members with an introduction to the role of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.

Information and Advice

2. In 1998 the then Secretary of State for Health wrote to all local authorities to emphasise the importance of the role of councillors in being 'corporate parents' for children and young people looked after by local authorities. This role has been endorsed by all relevant ministers since this time. The latest letter is from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, which was sent on 5 June 2013 and is attached to this report as **Appendix 1**.
3. The role of 'corporate parents' recognises that if children who are looked after by the local authority are to thrive then all members, officers and partners must play their part. Currently Nottinghamshire is corporate parent to around 900 children and young people.
4. Being a good corporate means we should:
 - accept responsibility for children in the council's care
 - make their needs a priority
 - seek for them the same outcomes any good parent would want for their own children.
5. The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee is presented with information about services to and outcomes of services to looked after children to note and to challenge. There are two foster carers who have been co-opted onto the Sub-Committee whose contributions are greatly valued. The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee has strong links with the Children in Care Council.
6. A 'Looked After Children Strategy 2012-2015' has been developed. This is a partnership document which is based on 'The Pledge' which articulates our promises to children and young people in care. The Looked After Children Strategy, through its action plan, addresses the outcomes for children and young people on the following themes:

- participation and joining in
- education
- health
- safe and stable placements
- relationships
- identity
- moving to adulthood
- emotional wellbeing.

7. There will be regular reports to the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on the progress of the action plan and on all aspects of the service to children and young people in Nottinghamshire's care.

Other Options Considered

8. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Equalities Implications

11. Due regard has been given to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the introduction to the role of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

12. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 11/06/13)

13. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Looked After Children Strategy 2012-2015

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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