

**9 January 2024****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DISTRICT AND BOROUGH COUNCILS' APPROACH TO  
CORPORATE PARENTING****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present an update from District and Borough Councils on their approach to Corporate Parenting.

**Information**

2. In February 2018, the government issued 'Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers: Statutory guidance for local authorities' extending the reach of corporate parenting responsibilities beyond those local authorities directly responsible for children's social care to other public bodies including District and Borough Councils. This built upon the Children Act 2004 which specified District Councils as 'relevant partners' in the provision of services to children and families.
3. The guidance states that "A strong ethos of corporate parenting means that sense of vision and responsibility towards the children they look after and their care leavers is a priority for everyone". It goes on to say that "local authorities will need to consider the extent to which the corporate parenting principles are relevant to a particular service area or exercise of a particular function. This should be a reasonable and proportionate evaluation based on the extent to which the service/function is being carried out in relation to looked-after children and/or care leavers. This should include arrangements for ensuring that in two tier authorities that district and county councils work closely together". The work of the County Council and Districts and Boroughs is coordinated through the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Board, which reports separately to this meeting.
4. **Appendix 1**, authored by Theresa Hodgkinson, Chief Executive at Ashfield District Council on behalf of the seven District and Borough Councils across Nottinghamshire, provides an update on the approach of the second-tier authorities.

**Other Options Considered**

5. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

6. The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers the information contained within the report and provides any feedback.

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## **Constitutional Comments (CD 05/12/23)**

9. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (CDS 29/11/23)**

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

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

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.

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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