

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
DATE 28 September 2021

TITLE OF REPORT: Terms of Reference, Membership and Schedule of Meetings

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise the Corporate Parenting Board on its proposed overarching terms of reference, membership and proposed schedule of meetings.

Background

2. Cabinet approved proposals for the Council's Corporate Parenting arrangements including the establishment of a Corporate Parenting Board on 25 May 2021.
3. The proposed overarching terms of reference of the Board are attached at Appendix 1.
4. The full membership of the Board is still being finalised. However, the current membership is attached at Appendix 2.
5. The Chair of the Board will be Councillor Gary Haley as Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People.
6. In addition to this meeting, a proposed schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2021/22 has been agreed with the Chair and these are attached at Appendix 3.

Recommendation

7. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to consider its proposed terms of reference, membership and schedule of meetings.

Contact:

Terms of Reference of The Corporate Parenting Board

1. Membership

The Corporate Parenting Board will consist of twenty four members as follows:

- Six councillors (including the Chair)
- A Secondary School Governor representative
- A Primary School Governor representative
- A representative from the Police
- A Care Leaver representative
- A Foster Carer representative
- A representative from the CCG
- A representative from the Council's Housing Services
- A representative from the Council's Public Health Team
- A representative from CNTW
- A representative from the Voluntary Sector
- A Young Person Ambassador
- A representative from Gateshead System – Commissioning
- The Council's Children's Rights Officer
- Gateshead's Virtual School Head for LAC

The Council may appoint such other persons or representatives as it thinks appropriate having consulted the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Corporate Parenting Board may itself appoint such additional persons to be members of the Corporate Parenting Board as it thinks appropriate.

The political balance rules will apply to the Corporate Parenting Board.

2. Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be no less than 8. and must include a minimum of two councillor representatives. Non-councillor members of the Board will be able to nominate substitute members to attend on their behalf.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Board shall meet on a quarterly basis or at such other times as the Corporate Parenting Board shall determine.

4. Role and Function

Gateshead's aspirant vision is that "Children and families are at the heart of everything we do, ensuring all children can thrive and reach their full potential". Our children have a right to be healthy, happy, safe and secure and feel loved, valued and respected and our corporate parenting arrangements are a key component to achieving this ambition.

Informed by what our looked after children and young people say is important to them, we have identified seven key priorities in the Gateshead's Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2023 which are at the heart of everything we do and how we can be good corporate parents:

- Our Children and Young People are respected and involved
- Our placements are safe and meet the needs of our Children and Young People
- Positive relationships and identity
- Our Children and Young People will be supported to improve their physical and emotional health and wellbeing
- Our Children and Young People are encouraged to reach their educational, employment and training potential
- Our Young People moving into adulthood will be supported to achieve their full potential in life
- Improve our role as the Corporate Parent

It is therefore proposed that the role and functions of the Corporate Parenting Board, will be:-

- To make recommendations as to the strategic priorities for services for looked after children, as a Board
To provide a forum for elected members, partners and Officers of the Council to oversee the progress of all looked after children,
- To monitor the services the Council and its partners deliver to the children it looks after and our care leavers, with the aim of continually improving outcomes.
- To ensure that all looked after children and young people have a positive experience and that the strategy enhances their outcomes
- To raise awareness of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities and develop expertise and knowledge among elected Members and officers.
- To encourage all partners, whether they work for health or social care services or the voluntary sector, to work in an integrated manner in the best interests of looked after children and care leavers;
- To lead cultural and behavioural change to promote better outcomes for looked after children and care leavers;
- To hold all partners to account for their role in the delivery of services to looked after children and care leavers.
- To provide a mechanism to ensure the views of children looked after and young people are acted on.
- To provide an improved synchronicity between the Corporate Parenting Board and Corporate Parenting Partnership Group and facilitating the Families OSC holding the partnership group to account via scrutiny of relevant partnership plans / work to deliver each of the seven key corporate parenting principles.

Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board

Councillors

Cllr Gary Haley (Chair) (Cabinet Member)
Cllr Angela Douglas
Cllr Hazel Weatherley
Cllr Sheila Gallagher
Cllr Freda Geddes
Cllr Ian Patterson

Partners

Sarah Diggle	Secondary School Governors
TBC once appointed	Primary School Governors
Lynne Colledge	Police
Nicola Barrass	Care Leavers
Malcolm Hedley	Foster Carers
Linda Hubbucks	CCG
Dr Kate Ward*	CNTW
TBC once appointed	Voluntary Sector
TBC once appointed	Young Person Ambassador

*interim until Senior CNTW Psychologist is seconded into the Council

Council Officers

Kirsty Sprudd	Gateshead System – Commissioning
Chris Hulme	Children's Rights Officer
Jean Thompson	Virtual School Head for LAC
Andrea Houlahan	Deputy Strategic Director for Children Social Care and Early Help
Caroline O'Neil	Strategic Director, Childrens, Adults and Families
Moiria Richardson	Public Health
Deborah Ewart	Housing

Corporate Parenting Board – Proposed Schedule of Meetings

- 21 September 2021
- 14 December 2021
- 1 March 2022