



## Corporate Parenting Panel

**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2024

**Time:** 4.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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PLEASE NOTE: Public seating is limited therefore members of the public wishing to attend are asked to register their attendance in advance by emailing [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk). Wirral Council is fully committed to equalities and our obligations under The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. If you have any adjustments that would help you attend or participate at this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we would be happy to facilitate where possible. Please contact [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)

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## AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
2. APOLOGIES
3. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

4. PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS

- 4.1 Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12

noon, Wednesday 18th September 2024 to the Council's Monitoring Officer ([committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: [Document Data Protection Protocol for Public Speakers at Committees | Wirral Council](#)

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

#### **4.2 Statements and Petitions**

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Wednesday 18 September 2024, to the Council's Monitoring Officer ([committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Committee no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 18 September 2024. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding one minute) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. Please give notice of petitions to [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

#### **4.3 Questions by Members**

Questions by Members to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders 12.3 to 12.8.

### **5. CORPORATE PARENTING WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025 (Pages 1 - 6)**



## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL** **Monday 23rd September 2024**

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>CORPORATE PARENTING WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Children, Families and Education</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The report provides members of the Corporate Parenting Panel an overview of the proposed work programme for 2024-2025.

The work programme is aligned to the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-2025.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to:

1. Endorse the proposed work programme for 2024-2025 attached at appendix 1; and,
2. Delegate responsibility for delivering the work programme to the Corporate Parenting Board, which will meet four times between October 2024 and March 2025.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1. REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. To promote the work of the Corporate Parenting Board and receive support for its work programme 2024-2025.
2. To delegate responsibility for oversight and monitoring of corporate parenting responsibilities to the Corporate Parenting Board.

#### **2. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.1 Other options were not considered due to the local authority having a statutory responsibility to have regard to the corporate parenting principles as outlined in guidance and legislation.

#### **3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and supporting statutory guidance; *"Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers"* introduces

the seven principles that local authorities and partners must have regard to when considering support for children looked after and care leavers. The principles are:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of children and young people
- to encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people
- for children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

3.2 As outlined within the Council's Constitution, the Corporate Parenting Panel acts as the formal Sub-Committee of the Children, Young People and Education Committee. The Panel has delegated authority to exercise responsibility for the Council's functions relating to the delivery of Corporate Parenting functions with the exception of policy decisions which will remain with the Children and Young People's Committee.

3.3 The Corporate Parenting Board acts as an advisory group to the Corporate Parenting Panel. It meets in private to respect the sensitive nature of information discussed about children looked after (CLA) and care leavers. This is particularly the case as there are young people representatives of the care councils who attend meetings to share stories and real-life experiences about being in care.

#### 3.4 Work programme 2024-2025

3.5 The work programme will focus on listening to the voice of children looked after and care leavers. It will dedicate time to hear their views and will be shaped by their emerging priorities. This means it will be flexible to ensure that the voice of children looked after is heard.

3.6 Underpinning this, it is proposed that the work programme focusses on the priorities in the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-2025. These are:

1. **Emotional and physical health and wellbeing** – making sure you are happy and healthy all the way through your childhood and into adulthood
2. **Independence and transition to adulthood** – Focussing on helping you learn 'life skills' from an early age and getting everything in place so you can be supported if you need it after you turn 18
3. **Positive Lived Experiences** – Making sure there are enough of the right people to look after you in suitable homes whether this is a short or long stay/time.
4. **Education and Employment** – Ensuring that you do well and have the right support in school and have the right opportunities to access employment

3.6 The priorities will be explored in detail and officers expected to report on progress and activity to date to promote and support improvements in these areas.

3.7 In addition, the work programme will include consideration of performance data, feedback and consultations from children looked after and care leavers and the annual

report of the Head of the Virtual School. Activity will be programmed accordingly. A copy of the draft work programme is attached at appendix 1.

3.8 It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Board continues to meet at the Our Space Care Leavers Hub in order to cater to young people representatives' access to meetings.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from the report.

5.2 The local authority has a statutory responsibility to have regard to the corporate parenting principles as outlined in guidance and legislation.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no significant resource implications arising from the report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 Failing to ensure robust governance arrangements are in place to our children looked after and care leavers creates a risk that there is insufficient oversight and scrutiny which both gives assurance and drives improvements to improve outcomes.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 There are two co-opted members from the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Council's who are invited to sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no equality implications arising from the report.

#### **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no environment and climate implications.

#### **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Whilst there are no community wealth implications relating to this report directly, delivery of the strategy via the Corporate Parenting Work Plan will encourage children in care and care leavers to achieve their full potential, improve their career opportunities and as a result, maximise their opportunity to contribute positively to the local economy. The work plan will also seek to make employment/ enterprise opportunities available to young people in Wirral.

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Work programme 2024-2025

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Children and Families Act 2014  
Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2021-2025

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>

## CORPORATE PARENTING WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

### STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting frequency	Lead Officer
Voice of children looked after and care leavers through Children in Care and Care Leaver Councils	Each meeting	Gareth Jones and Julie Smith
Performance and insight report	Each meeting	Tricia Thomas, Performance and Improvement Manager
Report of the Head Teacher of the Virtual School	Annual	Trish Lewis, Virtual School Head

### AGENDA ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Potential timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
<p><b>Theme 3: Positive Lived Experiences</b></p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local offer update</li> <li>Directorate plan</li> <li>response to timely decision making issues raised via ILACS</li> </ul>	October 2024	<p>Steve Smith, Head of Permanence</p> <p>Paul Smith, Head of Service 14-19 Strategy</p>
<p><b>Theme 4: Education and Employment</b></p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance</li> <li>Attainment</li> <li>Outcomes</li> </ul>	November 2024	<p>Trish Lewis, Head of Virtual School</p> <p>Paul Smith, Head of Service 14-19 Strategy</p>
<p><b>Theme 1: Emotional and physical health and wellbeing</b></p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>response to health assessments raised via ILACS</li> </ul>	January 2025	<p>Steve Smith, Head of Permanence</p> <p>Susan Keill, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding</p> <p>Carol Roche, Joint Commissioning Lead</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Branch Update</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Theme 2: Independence and transition to adulthood</b></p> <p>To include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accommodation strategy with Housing</li> <li>• response to accommodation issues raised via ILACS</li> </ul>	March 2025	<p>Paul Smith, Head of Service 14-19 Strategy</p> <p>Gareth Jones, 14-19 Learning, Skills &amp; Employment Manager</p>

## WORKSHOPS

- Corporate Parenting Training-24<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Workshops will be scheduled prior to the end of 2024 and in early 2025 to develop the new Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy.