



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2022

REPORT TITLE:	CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021-2022.

The Annual Report highlights the activity and achievements of the local authority and partners in fulfilling their corporate parenting responsibilities.

It also provides an overview of the work of the Corporate Parenting Board over the past 12 months in fulfilling its duties in championing the corporate parenting principles and understanding the experiences of children looked after and care leavers.

The work outlined in this report delivers against the following priorities of The Wirral Plan 2021 – 2026:

- Brighter Futures
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Active and Healthy Lives

This decision affects all wards. It is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to endorse the Annual Report and the work undertaken to date to ensure that the local authority and partners are effective corporate parents.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To allow the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider the work undertaken by the local authority and partners to fulfil their corporate parenting responsibilities.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Do nothing: This has been discounted as it ensures transparency and legitimacy for the work of the local authority and partners in undertaking their roles as corporate parents.

3.0 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 Annual Report 2021-2022

- 3.3 The Annual Report, as attached at appendix 1, provides an overview of the work carried out over the past 12 months by the local authority and partners in their role as corporate parents. In summary the Annual Report covers:
- the voice of children looked after and care leavers: the report highlights how children and young people’s voice has been listened and responded to.
 - A summary of achievements against the priorities in the previous Corporate Parenting Strategy. These are focussed around:
 - Accommodation and Housing
 - Health and wellbeing

- Education and Jobs
- Transitions
- A celebration of Our Space, the Care Leavers Hub and the opportunities provided
- Fostering and Adoption information, including an overview of the service and performance over the past 12 months.
- The work and role of the Corporate Parenting Board over the past 12 months including the launch of the new Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2021-2025

3.4 The Report evidences to stakeholders, including Ofsted, of the important work carried out to support children looked after and care leavers.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of the report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications arising out of the report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 It is important that the local authority and partners can capture and share their work as corporate parents with stakeholders including elected members and children and young people.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Annual Report will be shared on the Right Side of Care website, and a child-friendly version will be made and shared with members of the Children in Care and Care Leavers Council's.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report, but any associated actions may require an Equality Impact Assessment.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environment and climate implications.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community wealth implications.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021-2022

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Statutory guidance: “Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers”

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date