

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Monday 23rd September 2024

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

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)

Council Meeting	Date