

Corporate Parenting Panel

2 July 2021

Useful Resources



Report of Helen Fergusson, Head of Children's Social Care, Durham County Council

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to present members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with useful resources for reference in their role as corporate parents.

Executive summary

- 2 There are a number of resources which have previously been presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel, that are being re circulated for reference.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to note the resources as detailed in the report.

Background

- 4 Following the County Council elections on Thursday 6 May 2021, there will be changes to the make up of the Corporate Parenting Panel membership moving forward.
- 5 To ensure that useful resources which have previously been shared with the Corporate Parenting Panel are not lost, it was agreed that these would be shared as a reference point for all elected members to have sight of.
- 6 By sharing these documents, elected members will have a better understanding of their role and responsibilities, which will support them to ensure we strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children and young people in our care.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-2022

- 7 The Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 years is usually produced on an annual basis to reflect on the achievements over the previous year, and to set out ambition for our Children Looked After and Care Leavers, and key priorities for the year ahead. Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic a decision was taken for the strategy to cover 2020-2022 to incorporate the impact of Covid-19 on service delivery and to reflect the demands on staff due to the pandemic response.
- 8 As well as responding to the pandemic, a huge amount of work continued within the service which is reflected within the strategy, both in terms of achievements and the plans and priorities moving forward.
- 9 The Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the statutory obligations and collective responsibilities within County Durham in regard to children and young people who are in the care of the Local Authority.
- 10 The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-22 provides information on:
 - (a) An introduction to Corporate Parenting
 - (b) Durham County Council's Position Statement
 - (c) Our 'Promise' to Children and Young People
 - (d) Role of the Corporate Parenting Panel
 - (e) Children and Social Work Act Corporate Parenting Principles
 - (f) Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme

- (g) Sources of information to the Corporate Parenting Panel
 - (h) Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report
 - (i) The strategy then goes on to provide achievements in 2019-20 and priorities for 2020-22 for the following eight themes:
 - (i) Multi agency partnership work and integrated governance
 - (ii) Enabling children and young people to remain at home with their families, where it is safe to do so
 - (iii) Sufficiency of placements and placement stability
 - (iv) Early permanence
 - (v) Local Offer for care leavers
 - (vi) Health and wellbeing of our children and young people
 - (vii) Employment, Education and Training opportunities
 - (viii) Engagement with children and young people
- 11 The Children Looked After Strategic Partnership is a multi-agency operational group ensuring delivery against the priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- 12 A copy of the Corporate Parenting Strategy is attached as Appendix 2 of the report.

Local Government Association (LGA) Resource Packs

- 13 Every Councillor has a role to play in protecting the children and young people who are in our care. The LGA have produced a range of resource packs which aim to help Councillors fulfil their role as effectively as possible.
- 14 The packs are a valuable resource to help Councillors embed the corporate parenting principles in their work and do what they can to support children and young people to live meaningful and fulfilling lives.
- 15 The Corporate Parenting resource packs contains:
- (a) An introduction to Corporate Parenting
 - (b) Updates to legislation and practice
 - (c) Key lines of enquiry for Councillors

- (d) Local Case Studies
 - (e) Key resources and further reading
 - (f) Useful terms
- 16 The Corporate Parenting resource pack can be found at <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/corporate-parenting-resource-pack>.

This is the overarching resource, with the following supplementary resource packs available:

- (a) Permanency
<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/permanency-resource-pack>
- (b) Support for Care Leavers
<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/support-care-leavers>
- (c) Youth Justice
<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/youth-justice-resource-pack>

Conclusion

- 17 A range of work is taking place across County Durham to improve outcomes for our Children Looked After and Care Leavers, and plans are in place to continue to make improvements. It is important the new members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are sighted on these.
- 18 Similarly, it is important that valuable resources are shared with new members of the Corporate Parenting Panel to support them in their role as corporate parents, to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved for our children and young people.

Author

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Corporate Parenting Panel's role is to lead on ensuring the corporate parenting responsibilities of the Council are being met in line with the duties under the Children Act 1989.

Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the general duty of the local authority in relation to children looked after by them, to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of these children, ensuring effective, individualised support and access to services.

Finance

Financial implications are noted and considered within the service.

Consultation

No implications

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications

Climate Change

No implications

Human Rights

No implications

Crime and Disorder

No implications

Staffing

Staffing implications are noted and considered within the service.

Accommodation

Accommodation implications are noted and considered within the service.

Risk

No implications

Procurement

No implications

Appendix 2: Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 years, 2020-22

Attached as a separate document.