

**Corporate Parenting Panel Annual  
Report 2022-23**

---

**Report of Rachel Farnham, Head of Children's Social Care, Durham  
County Council**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report April 2022 – March 2023, for agreement.
- 2 The Annual Report 2022-23 is attached as Appendix 2 of this report.

**Executive summary**

- 3 Over previous years, a number of changes have been implemented to strengthen political and management oversight of the Corporate Parenting Panel and increase the voice of children and young people in our work. This continues to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved for our young people.
- 4 The Corporate Parenting Panel's Terms of Reference form part of Durham County Council's constitution.
- 5 This is the sixth Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel, following the changes to political oversight.

**Recommendations**

- 6 Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to:
  - (a) Discuss and agree the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2023-23.

## **Background**

- 7 The Corporate Parenting Panel prepare and provide an annual report that can be shared with Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny.
- 8 In July 2021, Durham County Council were subject to a remote focused inspection led by Children's Services and Skills on behalf of Ofsted's work into how England's social care system delivered child-centred practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the coronavirus pandemic.
- 9 The inspection identified a range of strengths and recognised that the service knows its children well, with Ofsted commenting that the self-assessment provided an accurate picture of children in care.
- 10 The processes in place to listen to the views of children and young people and to ensure their views positively impact service delivery were acknowledged. Inspectors were extremely complimentary about the Children in Care Council, having had the opportunity to meet representatives, to hear about their experiences and achievements.

## **Development of the Annual Report**

- 11 To ensure the voice of the child is reflected in the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel, young people from the Children in Care Council, supported by officers from the Partnerships Team and Investing in Children have an opportunity to develop the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Reports.
- 12 Young people consider the design, content and language of the Annual Report to ensure it is easy to read and understand.
- 13 To ensure we continue to raise the profile of the Corporate Parenting Panel, the development of the Annual Report retains a corporate format, whilst ensuring it uses language and design which is also appealing to young people.
- 14 The Annual Report is hosted on the Durham County Council website, Investing in Children website, and the Children in Care Council website.
- 15 The Annual Report includes information on:
  - (a) What a Corporate Parent is
  - (b) The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel
  - (c) The Corporate Parenting Panel's Terms of Reference

- (d) Key performance data
- (e) Achievements during 2022/23
- (f) Priorities for 2023/24

## **Next Steps**

- 16 Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to note the following key dates for the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report:
  - (a) Council: **19 July 2023, final version for endorsement**
  - (b) Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee: **22 September 2023, final version for information**
- 17 The Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report has already been presented to Children's Social Care Management Team, Children and Young People's Services Management Team and Corporate Management Team for comment.

## **Conclusion**

- 18 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to agree the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report which provides oversight of the work undertaken during 2022-23, and the priorities for the year ahead.

**Author:** Jayne Watson

**Tel:** 03000 268371

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

The Corporate Parenting Panel's Terms of Reference form part of Durham County Council's Constitution.

### **Finance**

There are cost implications for design and print services, however the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report will primarily be shared by email, and will be hosted on the Children in Care Council, Investing in Children and Durham County Council websites to minimise printing and distribution costs.

### **Consultation**

Young people from the Children in Care Council have been involved in the development of the Annual Report. The consultation has been done in the main through meetings coordinated by Investing in Children.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Services are available to all children and young people in our care, in line with legal duties.

### **Climate Change**

There are no climate change implications

### **Human Rights**

Children and young people have been central to the development of the Annual Report to ensure that their voices are heard.

### **Crime and Disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications.

### **Staffing**

There are no staffing implications.

### **Accommodation**

There are no accommodation implications.

### **Risk**

There are no risk implications.

### **Procurement**

There are no procurement implications.

---

**Appendix 2: Draft Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report  
2022-23**

---

Attached as a separate document