

## **AGENDA SUPPLEMENT 1**

### **Corporate Parenting Board**

**To:** Councillors Orrell (Chair), Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chair),  
Heaton, Hunter, Musson, Rowley, Runciman and Baker

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 January 2021

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Venue:** Remote meeting

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 11 January 2021. The attached additional documents are now available for the following agenda items:

**4. Revised approach to the Corporate Parenting Board** (Pages 1 - 10)

This report presents Members with a revised approach to the Board.

**5. Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) Strategy** (Pages 11 - 32)

This report presents the Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) Strategy for approval by Members.

This agenda supplement was published on 12 January 2021.

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## City of York Council Approach to Corporate Parenting

### **Introduction:**

The purpose of this report is to reinforce the importance of the Council meeting its responsibilities as a Corporate Parent and in light of the refreshed Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy 2020 – 2023, propose the approach to be taken by elected members, officers, partners and the Corporate Parenting Board in delivering the strategy.

This report should be read alongside the City of York Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy 2020 – 2023 and the associated action plan, which set out the key priorities relating to children and young people in care and care leavers including performance information/reporting. The Strategy also highlights the importance of the Corporate Parenting Board further strengthening its relationship with Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) and Care Leavers and broadening the contribution made by children in care and partner agencies.

Children and young people in care and care leavers can face challenges as they grow up and move on to independence. In order to make this journey as smooth as possible and to ensure they go on to fulfil their potential, it is vital that Members, Officers and Services across the Council work together in their interests.

### **The Corporate Parenting Legal Duty:**

As highlighted in the City of York Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy 2020 -2023, under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, when a child or young person comes into the care of the local authority, or is under 25 and was looked-after by the authority for at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday, the authority becomes their corporate parent. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 now compels local authorities to evidence how they meet the seven Corporate Parenting Principles as they are statutory in relation to children in care and care leavers. Partner Organisations also have a duty to support the Council in delivering their obligations.

This means that we must:

- act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
- encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them
- make sure they have access to services
- make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work
- prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

### **The Three Levels of Corporate Parenting Responsibility:**

The National Children's Bureau and Local Government Association helpfully identify three levels of understanding and responsibility for Councils in relation to Corporate Parenting. The Corporate Parenting Board plays an important role in ensuring every part of the council considers how its work impacts on children in care and care leavers and also the challenges children in care and care leavers face. Elected members should receive training on how to be an effective corporate parent.

#### Level 1 - Universal Responsibility

This is the minimum standard which requires all elected members and officers within the Council and other partner agencies to have an understanding of:

- the needs of our children and young people in care and why they need to be looked after
- the profile of children and young people in care and the outcomes they are achieving compared with other local children
- their responsibility for promoting the welfare of children and young people in care and care leavers

#### *Elected members and officers should:*

- be sure we are providing the best possible care for our children and young people in care and care leavers asking, 'would it be good enough for our children?'

- be aware of and, where relevant, implement ‘The Guarantee’ to children and young people in care and care leavers
- know what is most important to our children and young people in care and care leavers. This takes on even more significance due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

### Level 2 - Targeted Responsibility

This standard relates to elected members who are members with designated corporate parenting responsibilities (visit children’s homes, sit on Fostering or Adoption Panels or the Corporate Parenting Board) and members who carry out Corporate Parenting responsibilities through fulfilling a scrutiny function. It requires that they:

- are aware of relevant issues and know the expectations regarding services for children in care and care leavers
- have access to qualitative and quantitative information about services and outcomes for children and young people and are able to evaluate this information
- consider how they are going to hear the voice of the child / young person and take action, in conjunction with managers and other agencies, to improve services
- ensure, with senior managers across the council and its partner agencies, that improving outcomes for this group of children is a consideration in all decision making
- ensure the Council and partner agencies work together to improve the service and respond to changing needs. The participation of partners in work to promote the wellbeing of all children and young people is vital, and it’s important that they understand the specific needs of children in care so that this can be taken account of in their plans.
- know what our children and young people in care and care leavers think of the services provided for them.

### Level 3 - Specialist Responsibility

This specialist responsibility is for key senior roles within the Council - the Executive Member for Children’s Services and the Corporate Director of People and Assistant Director, Children’s Services. In addition to the responsibilities detailed above, they will:

- provide systematic leadership across the authority in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in care and care leavers
- ensure arrangements are in place to implement any key policy decisions in this regard
- ensure that there is an in-depth understanding of the needs of the Council's children and young people in care and care leavers and that this informs service improvement
- ensure that effective governance arrangements are in place to implement any decisions regarding children and young people in care and care leavers across the partnership
- ensure that the strategic plans of Children's Services and joint plans with partner agencies meet the needs of children and young people in care and care leavers
- ensure there are strong links with 'Show Me That I Matter' and 'I Still Matter' and that they are supported to be effective.

### **The Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategic Partnership:**

To support the Corporate Board in fulfilling its responsibilities, a strategic partnership which is made up of colleagues from the Council, Police, Education and Health meets bi-monthly and is chaired by the Assistant Director, Children's Services. These colleagues are at an appropriate senior level within their organisation to be able to influence policy and strategy within their organisation. They are also able to assist with the raising of opportunities and aspirations of our children and young people in care and care leavers in line with the seven Corporate Parenting Principles and will oversee delivery of the City of York Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy and Action Plan. The actions and recommendations agreed by this group will be shared with the Corporate Parenting Board and 'Show Me That I Matter' and 'I Still Matter'.

A Children in Care and Care Leavers Operational Group will meet monthly to deliver the City of York Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan and will report to the Strategic Partnership.

### **Corporate Parenting Board**

The Board provides leadership across the city to create a more effective and efficient health and wellbeing for looked after children and has responsibility for the quality of services for children and young people in care and care leavers. It strives to make a positive difference, improving the outcomes for all children and young people in care and care leavers and those who use our services.

Children and young people in care and care leavers have told us what they would like to see in relation to the Corporate Parenting Board: -

- Stronger links developed between the Corporate Parenting Board and young people/groups
- More representatives at the Corporate Parenting Board from different services so teams have a better understanding of corporate parenting
- A more relaxed and interactive Corporate Parenting Board to better engage young people
- Young people like the current format of the Corporate Parenting Board with Officers attending quarterly panel meetings to give updates.

It is therefore proposed that the membership of the Board is formally expanded to include not just the Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services and relevant elected Members but also relevant Council Officers and Partners and people with direct experience of either working with children in care and care leavers or having experienced what it is like to be a young person in care or care leaver. Elected Members would continue to be drawn from: -

- The Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services.
- Elected Members on the Adoption Panel and Fostering and Sharing Care Panel.
- Elected Members on the 'Show Me That I Matter' Panel (children in care council).
- The elected Members who visit Wenlock Terrace and The Glen.
- Another appropriate elected Member.

The following new members are proposed: -

- Corporate Director of People/Director of Children's Services
- Assistant Director of Children's Services
- Group Manager – Achieved Permanence

- Assistant Director - Education/Virtual School Head
- Representative from Health
- A care experienced young person
- 2 Foster carers

On a quarterly basis, the Corporate Parenting Board will receive an update from ‘Show Me That I Matter’ and ‘I Still Matter’ involving a report and/or direct input from young people in care and an update from the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategic Partnership. The Board will also receive performance information and data via the scorecard for Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers. Agenda items for each Board will reflect activity relating to the Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy action Plan and other items as agreed by the Board. This will include the Independent Reviewing Officer annual report.

Through these changes, the Board would become more than a forum for elected members to oversee progress for children and young people in care and care leavers but more interactive and young person friendly and less like a Council Committee. It is important that the Board fully understands and directly hears the experiences of Children in Care and Care Leavers and that young people are comfortable in participating, particularly given the impact of Covid 19.

END.

## **York Vision for Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers**

We are committed to York being an effective, caring, and ambitious corporate parent and we will do everything we can to make sure that children in our care and care leavers receive the best possible care and support.

The overarching vision of City of York Council is “A better start for children and young people” and we look to achieve this through our mission statement; “every conversation starts with the child.”

Through our practice, we have agreed to adhere to our values that ensure we can deliver positive outcomes:

- Everyone feels safe
- Risk is understood and managed well
- Practice is consistently good

We want our children and young people to be happy and healthy, both physically and emotionally, to be safe and protected from harm and exploitation, to achieve their potential and to be supported each step of the way to adult life.

The council has strong engagement with children and young people in care and care leavers who tell us what more we should be doing to further improve their lives and future outcomes. The Council highly values their experiences and we are committed to acting on what they tell us and involving them in decisions that affect their lives.

Our Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy sets out our ambition for our children and young people and care leavers and how we intend to fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities and strategic priorities in a way which puts children and young people and care leavers at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services.

## **Purpose of Board**

- To raise awareness of the Council’s corporate parenting responsibilities and develop expertise and knowledge among elected Members and officers.

- To advise, guide and provide leadership to the Council on issues relating to looked after children and its corporate parenting responsibility.
- To support and make recommendations to relevant Council bodies on matters related to corporate parenting.

## **Aims and objectives of Board**

### **To meet this purpose the Corporate Parenting Board will:**

- Provide leadership across the city to create a more effective and efficient health and wellbeing for children and young people in care and care leavers
- Make sure that the whole council and relevant partner agencies commit to excellent standards of corporate parenting.
- Set high expectations and stable relationships for all children and young people in care
- Seek improved long term outcomes for children and young people in care and their families – for their happiness; well-being; educational success; and future prospects
- Make sure that the voice of the child and young person in care influences both policy and the services that they receive, and that young people are engaged with any action intended to develop and improve services or to recruit key staff members
- Oversee and monitor key performance indicators for the health, well-being and education of looked after children
- Champion the provision of Council based work placements and apprenticeships for children and young people in care and care leavers.
- Review and monitor progress on the actions identified in the Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy
- Monitor the delivery of York's Guarantee to children and young people in care
- Consider the outcomes of regulatory visits and inspection reports on provision for children in care
- Celebrate the achievements of children and young people in care and their carers
- Determine ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples from other local authorities/organisations.

## **Support to the Board**

- Administrative and governance support to the Corporate Parenting Board will be provided by Democratic Services. A Democracy Officer will be responsible for

organising meetings, publishing agenda papers, attending meetings and publishing minutes of each meeting. This officer will also advise the Board on constitutional procedures where necessary.

- Technical support in preparing reports for the Board and giving advice to the Board in relation to children in care and care leavers will be provided by the Corporate Directorate of People and the Director of Children's Services/Assistant Director, Children's Services

## Details

### 1. Name

1.1 The Board will be known as the York Corporate Parenting Board ("the Board")

### 2. Membership

2.1 The Membership of the Board will consist of:

Elected Members drawn from:

- The Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services.
- The elected Members on the Adoption Panel and Fostering and Sharing Care Panel.
- The elected Members on the Show Me That I matter Panel (children in care council).
- The elected Members who visit Wenlock Terrace and The Glen.
- Another appropriate elected Member.

The Board will also have the power to co-opt Members and to include the following:

- Corporate Director of People/Director of Children's Services
- Assistant Director of Children's Services
- Group Manager – Achieved Permanence
- Assistant Director - Education/Virtual School Head
- Representative from Health
- A care experienced young person
- Up to 2 Foster carers
- Other significant agencies/services involved in corporate parenting as appropriate

The Board can make changes to the co-opted representation at any time.

### **3. Constitutional Status**

3.1 The Corporate Parenting Board is established in the Council's Constitution and as such will adhere to its constitutional rules around the convening of meetings and publication of business.

### **4. Quorum**

4.1 The Quorum shall be 3 members

### **5. Chair**

5.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board shall be elected from the membership of the Board at the first meeting and thereafter will be agreed by full Council annually.

5.2 In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair shall chair the meeting.

### **6. Frequency of Meetings**

6.1 The Board shall meet no less often than four times a year.

### **7. Access to Meetings**

7.1 The public shall have the same right of access to meetings, agendas, reports and background papers as apply to any other advisory body supported by the Council.

7.2 The public shall have the same rights to address the meeting as apply at all meetings of the Council under the Public Participation Scheme.

### **8. Conduct**

8.1 The Board and its members will operate in accordance with the standards of behaviour and principles required by the Council's Code of Conduct, which applies to both councillors and any person appointed as a co-opted member to a board or committee of the Council.



## City of York Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy 2020 - 2023

### Foreword:

We are committed to York being an effective, caring, and ambitious corporate parent and we will do everything we can to make sure that children in our care and care leavers receive the best possible care and support.

We have combined our corporate parenting strategy and children in care strategy into one overarching strategy because our commitment to being the best Corporate Parent we possibly can, informs and drives our activity for children and young people in our care and care leavers over the next 3 years. The two are inextricably linked. This also includes ensuring children and young people who no longer need to be in our care are safely discharged from our care.

The overarching **vision** of City of York Council is “**A better start for children and young people**” and we look to achieve this through our **mission** statement; “**every conversation starts with the child.**”

Through our practice, social workers have proposed and agreed to adhere to **our values** that ensure we can deliver positive outcomes:

- **Everyone feels safe**
- **Risk is understood and managed well**
- **Practice is consistently good**

Our strategy builds on the strong engagement the council has with children and young people in care and care leavers and what more they say we should be doing to further improve their lives and future outcomes. The Children in Care Council and Care Leavers forum (Show Me That I Matter and I Still Matter) has a strong voice representing children and young people and care leavers and works hard to tell us what works well and what needs to change, providing ideas and advice about how best to do this. The Council highly values their experiences and we are committed to involving them in decisions that affect their lives.

The strategy sets out our ambition for our children and young people and care leavers and how we intend to fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities and strategic priorities in a way which puts children and young people and care leavers at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services. To do this, the strategy outlines the areas we are going to work together on to improve and why.

To make sure we deliver what we say we will do and know when we have been successful, the strategy is accompanied by an action plan which also includes our partners and regular progress updates will be reported to the Strategic Partnership for Children in Care and Care Leavers and the Corporate Parenting Board.

Ian Cuthbertson – Lead Member for Children’s Services  
Amanda Hatton - Corporate Director, Children, Education and Communities

### Introduction:

#### *Our Improvement Journey*

There have been significant changes at a senior leadership level in the last 18 months and a commitment to rigorous and external review of services to drive forward continuous improvement. The Director of Children’s Services and Assistant Director have undertaken a range of service audit and review activity since taking up their posts and have a clear understanding of what we do well and what we need to improve. As a result, a significant improvement programme has been put in place and which is overseen by an Improvement Board. This strategy is forward looking and does not seek to look back over previous strategies.

External review and audit has found that our work with children in care and care leavers is some of our strongest areas of practice and this strategy seeks to build on this solid foundation.

#### *What is Corporate Parenting?*

‘Corporate Parenting’ is the term used to refer to the collective responsibility of the Council to provide the best possible care and

protection for children and young people who are in the care of the local authority, that is, children and young people for whom the authority has, or shares, parental responsibility, or for whom the authority provides care and accommodation on behalf of their parent.

Sometimes it is not possible for children and young people to be looked after safely by their families without support from social workers. When this happens they come into care and live with foster carers, residential carers, with extended family and in other types of placements. The obligations of their parents become the responsibility of everyone at the council and our partner organisations. This is reflected in the Children Act 1989 duty on partners including Health, Education and Housing services to assist Children's Services to fulfil their functions under the Act – providing help, support and services in order to meet Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

The Authority also has a duty and responsibility towards care leavers aged 16 to 25 years.

This strategy should also be read alongside The **action plan** that accompanies this strategy and also ***City of York Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2023***, which sets out how the council and its partners will provide the best possible environments for children in care and care leavers to thrive and achieve their potential.

### *What are the Legal Duties?*

This collective responsibility was first laid out in the Children Act 1989. Government guidance for Councillors, *'If this were my child'* (DfES 2003), emphasised their role in ensuring that all CYPIC receive a good standard of care and the high-quality outcomes that every parent would want for their own child are sought. This means being their Corporate Parents and “providing them with the stability and support they need to make progress and helping them to access new opportunities and experiences that inspire them to set ambitious goals for themselves” (Keep on Caring 2016). As a Corporate Parent we have the same goals for children in our care and moving on to independence as every good parent. We will always ask ourselves-

“If this was my child, I would .....

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 outlined the seven key corporate parenting principles which local authorities should have regard

to when exercising their functions in relation to children and young people in care and care leavers. For the first time, legislation enshrined our collective responsibilities in a duty to: -

1. Act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
2. Encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
3. Take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
4. Help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
5. Promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
6. For those children and young people to be safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
7. Prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

### Framing the Strategy:

The Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy has been aligned with our values and beliefs.

- Children, young people and care leavers at the heart of everything we do.
- Delivering high quality effective services
- Working with families
- Being outcome driven and impactful
- Supporting services around families
- Effective early help
- Effective partnership working
- Being part of a committed workforce
- Being part of high performing teams
- Being reflective and responsive to change

Our Values and Beliefs are also linked to our Guarantee to CYPIC.

The strategy is also part of a broad range of activity to support CYPIC and care leavers as follows:

Early Help Strategy  
Sufficiency Strategy  
Adolescence Strategy  
Virtual School Head (VSH) annual report  
Children's Services Improvement Plan  
Children and Young People Plan  
The Council's overarching Corporate Strategy/Plan  
Safeguarding Children Partnership - Independent scrutiny of all issues impacting on the safety of children and young people.

During the lifetime of this strategy we will also take account of new legislation and statutory guidance.

#### Corporate Parenting Board:

Our Corporate Parenting Board meets quarterly to review our response to CYPIC and care leavers and going forward this will also include progress against the strategy action plan.

The Board has responsibility for ensuring that we, as a whole Council, are delivering the corporate parenting agenda. Membership includes the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities, Assistant Director Children's Services, Lead Member for Children's Services and other elected members. We are reviewing the membership so that we have a broader representation from partner agencies and children and young people in care.

#### Messages from York Children and Young People in Care:

York Children and Young People in Care have told us via various means what is important to them as follows: -

- Children and young people should be listened to more and should be a priority for all professionals working with children and young people.
- Good quality relationships between young people and professionals is vital.
- Mental Health should still be a priority. In particular -
  - o Waiting lists for mental health services should be shorter.
  - o Priority should be given to young people in need.

- Worker knowledge of mental health varies and so training for professionals should be prioritised.
- More awareness is needed about the risks and potential impact that social media can have on young people's mental health.

CYPIC and care leavers who took part in the 2019 U Matter survey report told us: -

- They feel happy and safe in their placements and are able to identify an adult in their life that they can trust.
- Improvements have been seen in young people's experience of having a social worker, with most knowing how to contact their social worker and describing them as being reliable.
- Support to care leavers is viewed by young people as very positive, with care leavers reporting they are happy with the support they receive, including support with their education, training and employment.
- The majority of young people report that they have access to the health information they need and know who to talk to if they need support with their emotional wellbeing or access to support in school.
- On the whole, young people in care and care leavers have a good awareness of their rights and entitlements. Improvements could be made in ensuring that young people have access to the 'New to Care' Packs when they first come into care and also written information about a placement prior to a move.
- Consideration should be given to involving young people more in their CYPIC Reviews and Personal Education Plans (PEP) meetings, with more of an emphasis on young people having an opportunity to meet their IRO before the meeting and to be involved in the planning of Reviews and PEP meetings.

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In relation to the Corporate Parenting Board Young people told us they would like:

- Stronger links developed between the Corporate Parenting Board and young people/groups
- More representatives at the Corporate Parenting Board from different services so teams have a better understanding of corporate parenting
- A more relaxed and interactive Corporate Parenting Board to better engage young people
- Young people like the current format of the Corporate Parenting Board with Officers attending quarterly panel meetings to give updates.

### Our Strategic Priorities:

**Objective 1** – Our Children and Young People have a voice in the way we deliver our services and we will act upon what they tell us.

'To ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services'.

#### **How will we achieve this:**

'We will continue to engage our young people regarding the services we deliver and ensure we act on their feedback. We will do this through various avenues with individuals or through the Children in Care Council - (Show Me That I Matter) and the Care Leavers forum (I Still Matter) and bi-annual surveys'

**Objective 2** - Children and Young People in York can remain safely at home

'To ensure that early support is provided at the right time to prevent the need for statutory intervention'

#### **How will we achieve this:**

'We will work with our social workers and managers to ensure that they are equipped to manage complexity and provide intervention that brings about change to allow children to remain at home wherever possible and return home when they can'

**Objective 3** - Our Care Leavers in York have a comprehensive 'Local Offer'

'To ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of services to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.

**How will we achieve this:**

'The Offer is a live document that is continually updated and published bi-annually. We will use feedback from the care leavers forum (I still matter) to inform the offer'.

**Objective 4** – Children and Young People will be supported in their Education, Employment and Training.

'Children and young people in care are meeting their potential and making at least, expected progress from their starting points. We will seek to boost and accelerate children's learning. Schools, education settings and foster carers are actively using the PEP'.

**How will we achieve this:**

'We will ensure that our social workers and managers use each child and young person's Personal Education Plan as an active tool to inform where support is required to boost and accelerate children's learning.'

**Objective 5** – Children and Young People will have a suitable place to live and be cared for, secured through timely permanence planning.

'To ensure that the Children and Young People in our Care have a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet their immediate and long term needs'.

**How will we achieve this:**

'We will continue to review our Sufficiency Strategy to ensure that it is informed by feedback from children and young people in our care and the feedback is used to reshape our services'. 'We will also strengthen our approach to permanence planning'

**Objective 6** – The Health and Wellbeing of our Children and Young People will be a priority for City of York Council.

'To maximise the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for'.

**How will we achieve this:**

'We will work in partnership with our health colleagues to ensure that the health needs of children and young people in our care are prioritised and met and our children are involved in their assessments.'

**Objective 7** - Our Children and Young People are protected from harm and/or Risk of Exploitation

'To ensure that children are protected from harm and exploitation and ensure that they are provided with support to overcome any pull factors that would lead them to being exploited'.

**How will we achieve this:**

' We will work with our partner's - police, health, housing, commissioned services and the Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure that we are sharing information and targeting activity and services to deal with exploitation at every opportunity'. 'We will also develop an Adolescence Strategy'.

**Objective 8** - Children and Young People in our Care and Care leavers' achievements are celebrated.

'To ensure that the children we care for and have cared for, are recognised for their achievements and successes'.

**How will we achieve this:**

'We have great aspirations for our children in care and we will acknowledge and celebrate their achievements'. We will develop a strategy across the Children, Education and Communities Directorate.

Oversight & Accountability:

The Corporate Parenting Board will have oversight of progress on this strategy and the associated action plan. Through regular updates, they will ensure that the right progress is being made towards the vision and priorities set out in this document.

Children's Scrutiny will be updated on progress relating to this strategy.

The Improvement Board will receive ongoing updates as part of its responsibilities in guiding the Council's improvement journey.

Key stakeholders that will receive updates on our corporate parenting include:

- Children's Services SMT and DMT
- Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategic Partnership
- City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Board?
- Show Me That I Matter and I Still Matter (children in care council and care leavers forum)

**Corporate Parenting Strategy November 2018 – March 2020 Delivery Plan**

Ref	Activity	Where Are We Now?	Evidence	Lead Agency and Lead Officer	By When	BRAG
<b>Objective 1 – Our Children and Young People have a voice in the way we deliver our services and we will act upon what they tell us.</b>						
'To ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services'.						
<b>How will we Achieve this:</b>						
'We will continue to engage our young people regarding the services we deliver and ensure we act on their feedback.. We will do this through various avenues with individuals or through the Children in Care Council - (Show Me That I Matter) and the Care Leavers forum (I Still Matter) and annual surveys'						
1	Ensure that young people consistently receive the 'New to Care' Packs when they first come into care.			Children's Social Care	30/06/21	Green
2	Ensure CYPIC are fully consulted and provided with written information about a proposed placement move.			Children's Social Care	30/06/21	Green
3	Review the way that we run the Corporate Parenting Board to further strengthen the links with CYPIC . Broaden the membership in order to expand understanding of corporate parenting responsibilities. Increase CYPIC contribution to Corporate Parenting Boards	To be discussed at the next Board scheduled for 19/01/21		Children's Social Care	31/07//2021	Green
4	Consistently Involve young people in their CYPIC Reviews and PEP meetings. This includes meeting with the IRO before the CYPIC Review.	Task and Finish Group established. Mind of My Own (MoMo) training commenced in November. MoMo Practice Standards being developed	Covid 19 Learning	Quality Assurance, Review and Safeguarding Service	30/09/21	Green

**Corporate Parenting Strategy November 2018 – March 2020 Delivery Plan**

5	We will raise awareness about the risks and potential impact that social media can have on young people's mental health.			All partners	30/12/21	
6	Continue to seek feedback from CYPIC and care leavers through the U matter survey and to act on what it tells us			Children's Rights Service	Ongoing	Green
<b>Objective 2 - Children and Young People in York can remain safely at home</b> 'To ensure that early support is provided at the right time to prevent the need for statutory intervention'						
<b>How will we Achieve this:</b> 'We will work with our social workers and managers to ensure that they are equipped to manage complexity and provide intervention that brings about change to allow children to remain at home wherever possible and return home when they can.						
7	Implement a Social Work Practice Model based on systemic practice and linked to 'Frontline'.	Link to the Improvement Plan and developing practitioners in using systemic approaches. Training has commenced.		Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	31/03/22	Green
8	Further increase Family Group Conference (FGC) capacity to support children subject to a Child Protection Plan, children on the edge of care and pre proceedings work			Children's Social Care (Rose Howley)	30/12/21	Green

**Corporate Parenting Strategy November 2018 – March 2020 Delivery Plan**

9	Implement revised financial officer in relation to SGO's and also the SGO support offer	Proposals have been shared with Senior Managers and an options paper is being written for elected members and the DCS	Number of CYP in in-house foster care progressing to SGO and the number of children in care proceedings with a final order of SGO	Children's Social Care	30/06/21	Green
10	Proactive Reunification and Discharge of Care Orders (S.20, PWP, Connected Carers to SGO)	Monthly meeting chaired by a Senior Manager in place from October 2020. Early Permanence Action Meetings commenced September 2020.		Children's Social Care	31/12/20	Blue
<p><b>Objective 3 - Our Care Leavers in York have a comprehensive 'Local Offer'</b>                  'To ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of services to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.</p>						
<p><b>How will we Achieve this:</b>The Offer is a live document that is continually updated and published bi-annually. We will use feedback from the care leavers forum (I still matter) to inform the offer.</p>						
11	Review Post 18 accommodation provision in light of the increase in CYPIC transferring to the Pathway team	Analysis of young people leaving care over the next 3 years commenced January 2021, to better understand demand		Children's Social Care	30/09/21	Green
12	Care Leavers have equal opportunities to routine health needs and receive support for additional needs, including sexual health			Children's Social Care and Health	31/01/22	Green

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13	Review and consider ways to strengthen the mental health and wellbeing support for care leavers .	Young people want access to a full time worker in the Mental Health team		Children's Social Care and Health and CAMHS	31/01/22	Green
14	Update and publish the 2020 Care Leaver Offer. Subsequent Offer's to be published bi-annually.	Complete	Update is on the CYC intranet	Children's Social Care, Dave Purcell	31/12/20	Blue
15	Improve transition and links between Children's Social Care and Adult services.	Preparation for Adulthood work is taking place across the People Directorate and Health.		Children's Social care and Adult Social care	31/01/22	Green
16	Identify a Corporate Parenting Champion for CYPIC and Care Leavers and devise and implement a work plan	Joint work with the Children's Rights Service, CPP team		Children's Social Care	30/09/21	Green
17	All Care Leavers to have a Health Passport.			Pathway Team and Health	31/01/22	Green
18	Care Leavers receive support in relation to Education, Training and Employment Opportunities. Further strengthen the links between the Pathway Team and VSH	Work has been identified to link 'destination' to Pathway Plans, Support enrolment at College	Numbers of apprentices Number of Placements/ work experience within York	VSH and Children's Social Care	31/01/22	Green
19	Develop Apprenticeships/traineeships within the council for care leavers			Corporate Services	31/01/22	Green

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20	We will regularly check the quality of Needs Assessments and Pathway Plans and young people's engagement with them.			Pathway Team	Ongoing	Green
21	Pathway Team to deliver briefings to social work teams on good quality needs assesment and Pathway Plans			Pathway Team	30/06/21	Green
22	Pathway Team to deliver briefings to social work teams on Leaving Care entitlements. To include CYP who enter care when they are 17.			Pathway Team	30/06/21	Green
23	Preparation for Independent Living to consistently commence earlier. Ensure providers and foster carers are supporting young people.			Children's Social Care	30/04/22	Green
<p><b>Objective 4 – Children and Young People will be supported in their Education, Employment and Training</b>                  'Children and young people in care are meeting their potential and making at least, expected progress from their starting points. We will seek to boost and accelerate children's learning'. Schools, education settings and foster carers are actively using the PEP</p> <p><b>How will we Achieve this:</b>                  'We will ensure that our social workers and managers use each child and young person's Personal Education Plan as an active tool to inform where support is required to boost and accelerate children's learning.'</p>						
24	Evidence what difference the PEP is making		PEP Completion rates	Children's Social Care and VSH	31/01/22	Green

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25	Regular VSH attendance monitoring , Social Workers to ensure termly PEP Reviews consistently take place, VSH undertakes termly PEP Quality Assurance activities. Improve CSC engagement with the VSH regarding placement moves. Monitor Persistent absence?		VSH QA framework	VSH and Children's Social Care	30/04/21	Green
26	Improve eligible nursery take up to support narrowing the gap			Children's Social Care	30/04/22	
27	Ensure foster carers are supporting children and young people with their development and education i..e first 1000 days, integrated 2 year review			Fostering Service	31/01/22	

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28	Promote and support children and young people in contributing to their PEP meetings. Use the learning from Covid 19 in engaging children and young people in meetings about them. Consider CSC using the contribute to my PEP section via MOMO (how this fits with PEP template?)		YP feedback	Children's Social Care	03/09/21	Green
<b>Objective 5 – Children and Young People will have a suitable place to live and be cared for secured through timely permanence planning</b> 'To ensure that the children and Young People in our Care have a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet their immediate and long term needs'.						
<b>How will we Achieve this.</b> 'We will continue to review our Sufficiency Strategy to ensure that it is informed by feedback from children and young people in our care and the feedback is used to reshape our services'. 'We will also strengthen our approach to permanence planning'						
29	Updated Sufficiency Strategy in place and which outlines strategies to increase the number of foster carers for CYPIC and also plans to increase residential provision and supported accommodation provision	Sufficiency Strategy has been signed off by PH/CMT	Increase the number of foster placements as an alternative to residential care  Residential placements availability	Children's Social Care	30/11/20	Green
30	Ensure the permanence tracker is embedded and is being actively used as a working tool to monitor and address drift and delay and safely identify exits from care	Tracker is live and being used and ongoing work regarding managers consistently updating and using as an active tool		Children's Social Care	31/03/21	Green
31	Launch the Revised Permanence Strategy and deliver workshops to the workforce. Embed the Policy in everyday social work practice	Soft launch with CSC managers on 04/11/20. Launch with partners planned for December/January		Children's Social Care	31/03/21	Green
32	Devise and deliver briefings and guidance to social work teams on the child's adoption journey, in order to improve timeliness	Child Permanence Report and Early Permanence Planning training has been written. To be delivered to social work teams in the New Year		Children's Social Care	30/09/21	Green

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33	Implement a sustainable model of track and challenge to ensure there is no drift in stepping children and young people down to foster care or semi –Independence	In place from November 2020 supported by an Improvement Partner. There is however, limited semi-independent living placements. Working Group commenced January 2021 to consult with Children in Care and Care Leavers.		Children's Social Care	30/12/21	Green
34	Review all young people 16/17 in residential care with a view to stepping down to semi independence or supported lodgings where appropriate and safe to do so.	Commenced November 2020. Overseen by the Achieving Permanence and Attainment within Local Resources Working Group		Children's Social Care	31/01/22	Green
34	Lifestory work to be completed with children and young people in care and evidenced on the child's record	Themed audit planned in early 2021 for children and young people in the Children in Permanent Placements Team followed by children with a plan of adoption.		Children's Social Care	31/12//2021	Green
35	Implement new SGO support offer with a view to reducing the number of Connected Carers			Children's Social Care	30/06/21	Green
<p><b>Objective 6 – The Health and Wellbeing of our Children and Young People will be a priority for City of York Council</b>                  'To maximise the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for'.</p>						
<p><b>How will we Achieve this:</b>                  'We will work in partnership with our health colleagues to ensure that the health needs of children and young people in our care are prioritised and met and our children are involved in their assessments.'</p>						
36	SDQ to be used as an active tool and informs care planning arrangements. Review the work of the task and finsigh group and identify any additional activity	SDQ being used but what support is available where this is identified.		Children's Social Care	30/06/21	Green

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37	Consistently improve the timeliness of Initial and Review Health assessments. Ensure key health information is available at the CYPIC Review (snapshot summary)	Regular meetings between CSC and health, which is supporting improved timeliness.	% of IHA within 20 working days (assessments and report). % health actions available at CYPIC Reviews	Children's Social Care and Health	30/06/21	Green
38	Review and Revise the offer for children in care and care leavers provided by the children in care nurse in the healthy child service			Healthy Child Service and Children's Social Care	31/07/21	Green
39	Ensure sexual health work for young people in care is undertaken at an earlier stage and that sexual health support is available.			Health and Children's Social Care	31/01/22	Green
40	Ensure foster carers are confident in supporting young people's sexual health			Children's Social Care	31/01/22	Green
41	Improved access to specialist emotional/mental health support for CYPIC. Recruit to the psychologist post following the identification of appropriate resource	Liase with Carol Redmond and Sophie Wales.	Number of children and young people accessing services	Children's Social Care and Health	31/01/22	Green
42	Ensure children's experiences of health assessments are positive	Work is planned to take place between SMTIM and the Healthy Child Service around training for school nurses. Digital platform more responsive and consider use of Mind of My Own. Use the U Matter Survey to ask specific questions and let NW know		Children's Rights Service and Health	Jan-22	Green

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43	Explore innovative ways to improve the health and wellbeing of the children and young people in care For those young people reluctant to engage in their health assessment, review the	Use the U Matter survey to ask young people what they would like i.e in terms of specific topics that they think would improve their health. Let NW of any questions. - i.e. for health assessments, do they prefer face to face or virtual, what is their experience of seeing their GP and Primary Care Services.		Children's Rights Service and Health	31/01/22	Green
<b>Objective 7 - Our Children and Young People are protected from harm and or Risk of Exploitation</b> 'To ensure that children are protected from harm and exploitation and ensure that they are provided with support to overcome any pull factors that would lead them to being exploited'.						
<b>How will we Achieve this:</b> ' We will work with our partner's - police, health, housing, commissioned services and the Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure that we are sharing information and targeting activity and services to deal with exploitation at every opportunity' . 'We will also develop an Adolescence Strategy'.						
44	Regular reports regarding CYPIC at risk of exploitation or Missing are provided to the Corporate Parenting Board. Update the Corporate Parenting Board on the role and function of the Child Exploitation Team and also MACEM.		Quarterly Missing and Exploitation Report	Children's Social care	30/04/21	Green
45	Launch the Adolescence Strategy	Adolescence strategy is being updated to include sexual health and via SCP.		Safeguarding Children's Partnership	31/12/20	
46	A suite of information will be provided to the Corporate Parenting Board regarding CYPIC and Care Leavers regarding their progress	Improvement Board data covers most areas	Placement stability, CYPIC placed out of area, PEP, Health assessments, care leavers in suitable accommodation, In Touch, NEET	Children's Social Care	30/04/21	Green
<b>Objective 8 - Children and Young People in our Care and Care leavers' achievements are celebrated</b> 'To ensure that the children we look after and have looked after, are recognised for their achievements and successes'.						

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<p><b>How will we Achieve this:</b>                  'We have great aspirations for our children in care and we will acknowledge and celebrate their achievements'</p>						
47	Work across the Directorate to develop a strategy/ approach to celebrating achievements			Children's Social Care and Education.	30/06/21	Green

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