
Corporate Parenting Board

15 February 2016

Report of the Assistant Director of Childrens Specialist Services [CSS]

Corporate Parenting Board - Draft Strategy for Looked After Children 2016-2020 and Update on Arrangements

Summary

1. At the last Board Meeting on 8 December 2015, Members received some presentations on the strategic planning to further improve the outcomes for York's Looked After Children. Specifically these presentations included:
 - a) A draft strategy – Good enough is not Good enough – Improving the Outcomes for Looked After Children 2016 – 2020.
 - b) Bring them all Home, now re titled Make York Home – a project to ensure that wherever possible York's Looked After Children are cared for by the City and in the City.
 - c) A View from our Young People – the outcome of the 2015 survey of York's Looked After Children.

Informed by these presentations, the Board considered and debated its role and specifically, how it;

- a) can support and oversee the implementation of the new strategy.
- b) might raise awareness and promote fuller participation in this agenda across all elected members.
- c) effectively scrutinise progress, in the context of the priorities set out in the new strategy.
- d) align with the wider governance and accountability arrangements for the oversight of Looked After Children arrangements.

Outcomes from Last Board Meeting

- 2 The Board resolved;
 - a) That Group Leaders be asked to consider the draft revised Looked After Children's Strategy.

- b) That when completed the new and refocused strategy is fully endorsed by Council.
- c) That a refreshed focus, role, operation model and composition for the Corporate Parenting Board, to reflect the wider corporate parenting agenda across the Council, be considered and established at the next meeting.
- d) That clear lines of accountability for the Board and the Terms of Reference be considered.
- e) That the appointment of an Independent Advisor to the Board be considered once the strategy for Looked After Children was in operation.
- f) That the Corporate Parenting Board work plan be updated to establish any key standards expected of Members in being effective political 'corporate parents' and in championing the needs of and outcomes for children in care.
- g) That any training required by Members to enable them to undertake their corporate parenting role adequately and appropriately be considered and raised at the next meeting.
- h) That all Corporate Parenting Board meetings take place formally with a rolling confidential agenda item.
- i) That bi annual performance and finance updates be brought to the Board.

Issues for Board to Consider

3. At today's meeting, and in pursuance of the above recommendations, Board Members are invited to:
 - a. Receive a final update on the draft strategy for Looked After Children.
 - b. Consider any amendments, additions or challenges they would like to make.
 - c. Agree the arrangements for the presentation of the new strategy to Full Council.
 - d. Hear a proposal for arrangements to provide independent professional advice to the Board.

- e. Consider how to use the independent advisor role to develop:
 - i. revised terms of reference
 - ii. a new work plan
 - iii. a framework for the provision of bi annual finance and performance reports

Council Plan

4. Ensuring safe and effective care arrangements for Looked After Children falls within the Council Plan key priority “A Focus on Frontline Services”.

Implications

5. Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper. However, if the proposal for an independent specialist advisor to a newly configured Corporate Parenting Board [CPB] is agreed there may be a small cost associated with the provision of such advice.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

There are no implications

- **Equalities**

There are no implications. However, the provision of specialist independent advice to a newly configured CPB could enhance the Board’s ability to understand and challenge the looked after offer to children from protected groups.

- **Legal**

There are no implications

- **Crime and Disorder**

There are no implications

- **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no implications

- **Property**

There are no implications

Recommendations

6. In light of today's discussion of the above issues it is recommended that the Board:
- i. endorses the draft Looked After Children's Strategy 2016 - 2020
 - ii. confirms the arrangements for independent professional advice
 - iii. develops and confirms new Terms of Reference
 - iv. develops and agrees a work plan for 2016/17

Reason: In order to strengthen corporate parenting arrangements in the city.

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Approved

Wards Affected:

All

Annexes

Draft Strategy for Looked After Children 2016 – 2020 (to follow – draft to be published 10.02.16)