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## **Corporate Parenting Board**

**27 June 2016**

Report of the Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services

### **Corporate Parenting Board Programme of Work and Priorities**

#### **Summary**

1. This report is asking Board members to consider and provide feedback regarding the suggestions and options included within the report. Do Board members agree that some or all of the suggestions will provide the right framework and opportunities to develop and strengthen local Corporate Parenting arrangements?
2. At a previous Corporate Parenting Board meeting, members requested a report which summarised proposals of a 12 month programme outlining Corporate Parenting Board work and priorities. Board members supported a principle that a forward plan could assist in ensuring that priorities were focused and closely supported the revised strategy for children and young people in care (2016).

#### **Background**

3. When Corporate Parenting Groups are at their best, arrangements provide the leadership necessary to drive an ambitious and coherent multi agency approach to improving outcomes for children and young people in care.
4. Building from a position of strength and committed member engagement, initial feedback provided by members of York Corporate Parenting Board has identified a number of priorities.
5. York Corporate Parenting Board would like to:
  - a. Refresh the purpose and role of the Board, promoting closer direct engagement with children, young people and professionals working with children in care

- b. Champion the rights, aspirations and achievement of children and young people in care, monitoring progress and outcomes
  - c. Raise awareness of the corporate parenting role, responsibilities and opportunities in order to extend the principles of corporate parenting to a wider group of officers and elected members
  - d. Actively engage with young people through existing forums, such as Show Me That I Matter (SMTIM), in order to stay connected to the experiences of young people and ensuring a sustained focus on the voice of the child, outcomes and progress
6. There is no 'right' way of establishing Corporate Parenting arrangements. Different models can be effective and for York, the 'best fit' is likely to be an approach which explicitly supports the priorities outlined above.

### **York Strategy for Children and Young people in Care**

7. Significant work has been completed to develop and implement a new strategy for children and young people in care. The strategy document introduces 6 strategic themes and a new Strategic Partnership for Children and Young People in Care. In addition, the nine priority actions and projects provide a structure to plan future Corporate Parenting Board Meetings and other related activity.
8. The six new strategic themes are ambitious, challenging and well placed to support the development of local corporate parenting arrangements. The themes can be used to measure service and/or partnership progress and outcomes for children, promoting a balance between qualitative and quantitative evidence and promoting a greater focus on outcomes and experiences of children and young people.
9. York Corporate Parenting Board might want to consider how the 6 strategic themes could be used to develop a framework to measure the effectiveness of member support and challenge and/or Corporate Parenting Board self assessment.

## **6 strategic themes:**

**Ambition:** *'good enough is not good enough'.*

**Personalisation:** *'every child and every family is different'.*

**Normality:** *'every child and young person is entitled to a normal, stable, caring family life'.*

**Trust:** *'as professionals we need to trust each other better, and young people even more'.*

**Accountability:** *'we need to be clear who is responsible for what'.*

**Efficiency:** *'we have to live within our means'.*

## **Consultation**

10. The development of the revised strategy document involved significant consultation with a cross cutting range of stakeholders. This consultation and engagement included a number of services and agencies and the feedback and ideas have helped to shape the priorities and approach outlined. This process in itself will have encouraged agencies to think differently about the opportunities and their responsibilities to improve outcomes for children and young people in care. This work will provide a platform from which services and standards can further develop.

## **Options**

11. This report promotes a twelve month forward plan which includes a dual approach, including formal meetings and other related Corporate Parenting Board activity.
12. In addition to regular Corporate Parenting Board Meetings, there are opportunities for Board members to be more closely connected to practice and children's experiences of care. This activity could include visits to services and teams, providing a further opportunity to promote a focus on the effectiveness of services, within a context of the 9 outcomes and 6 strategic themes.
13. Consideration should be given to the following activity:
  - 4 or 5 Corporate Parenting Board Meetings each year

- Visits to teams, services and related consultation groups
- Member training

**14. A suggested structure for future meetings:**

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  13. Consideration should be given to the following activity:
    - 4 or 5 Corporate Parenting Board Meetings each year
    - Visits to teams, services and related consultation groups
    - Member training
1. Clarify the purpose of the session considering the 9 priority actions and projects. What is it we are doing and why? How does the agenda link to the 9 priority actions?
  2. Timetable reports and presentations which provide narrative, details of progress and areas which require further development or improvement. Officers might be encouraged to prepare reports and presentations, using the 6 strategic themes, to evaluate the effectiveness of practice and partnership arrangements.
  3. Highlight plans to prioritise the voice of the child and/or experience of practitioners. Opportunities might include practitioners attending the Board Meetings.
  4. Discussion following the presentation and/or report which considers other related activity and visits as part of a Corporate Parenting Board forward plan.
  5. Corporate Parenting Board members provide feedback regarding observed strengths and effectiveness, considering one or more of the 6 strategic themes.

### **Planned CPB activity between meetings**

- 15 In some ways the activity which takes place between Corporate Parenting Board Meetings might be the most valuable. If planned and consistent with a wider set of priorities, this activity will allow members to promote the Corporate Parenting Board role, equipping them with the detail and insights they need in order to be most effective.
16. Priorities for Board members might include:
- Routine and planned engagement and discussion with young people, teams and services which support children and young people in care
  - An extended use of case studies to develop insight into the experiences of children, young people and carers
  - Member training and workshops with wider service and agency representation
  - A developed 'link role' to key service areas, establishing relationships and developing oversight of effectiveness over time. A link role could be established in the following areas:
    - Show Me That I Matter
    - Housing
    - Pathway Team
    - Education/ schools
    - Health
    - Placement Team, Fostering Service and Short Breaks
    - Virtual Head and School for children in care

### **Analysis**

- 17 As stated earlier in this paper, there are no right or wrong ways to deliver corporate parenting arrangements and the most important feature is that arrangements reflect local priorities, approach and vision. Equally, arrangements should be well understood and easily communicated by all relevant stakeholders.

### **Questions for York Corporate Parenting Board**

18. Which suggestions or ideas would members like to prioritise or take forward?
19. Language is important and immediately sets a tone and approach. Do members want to be a Board, Committee, Panel or a Group? A Board immediately suggests a formal process; a Group might promote a set of priorities and activity which is ongoing and inclusive.
20. Membership can and should be determined on a local basis. Is the membership right for York or do members wish to extend and include wider agency representation? Membership doesn't necessarily mean that individuals attend every meeting, for example; the Virtual Head Teacher for Children in Care might be a member, attend once or twice a year and be included in wider communications and other activity between formal meetings.
21. How do York Corporate Parenting Board routinely feedback and communicate with services and other strategic groups? Member attendance at the Strategic Partnership for Children and Young People in Care will be critical but other groups will be equally important. For example; foster carer consultation groups, teams and services working directly with children in care.
22. How will the views of young people be represented? York Corporate Parenting Board has well established relationships with SMTIM which might be extended to include a wider group of children and young people.

## **Council Plan**

23. The forward plan should reflect the priorities set out in our Children in Care Strategy alongside the priorities and interests of Board members. Members of the Corporate Parenting Board are asked to consider the following proposals from which a detailed programme can be developed.
24. Key elements of a forward plan could include the following over the course of a year:
  - Reflecting the 9 strategic priorities of the Children in Care Strategy.
  - Joining up seemingly separate strands of work and maintaining a clear focus on outcomes for individual children and all children in care.

- Case studies can be used to illustrate the complexity and connections of themes and issues.
- Members may also wish to consider looking at aspects of the work plan outside of Board meetings, for example; visits to the SMTIM Panel, meetings with staff and foster carers, visits to key places, for example the Danesgate school.
- Reports from and dialogue with the Show Me That I Matter Panel (SMTIM). Panel members could attend Board meetings.
- Elected Member visits to children's homes
- Annual Independent Reviewing Officer Report
- Annual Report from the Strategic Partnership for Children in Care to the YorOK Board and Health & Wellbeing Board
- Other suggestions from Corporate Parenting Board members?

## 25. Illustrative forward plan

Meeting Date	Items for Forward Plan		
	Strategic Themes	Strategic item	Tabled items
1	Education       Respect & Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual School Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Rees Centre for Education – key issued for Elected members</li> <li>• Decision making &amp; delegation</li> <li>• Support for placements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMTIM Panel Input</li> <li>• Case Studies</li> </ul>
2	Health   Emotional Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health passport</li> <li>• Health profile / issues for children in care</li> <li>• Local arrangements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMTIM Panel Input</li> <li>• Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report and IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) attendance and case studies</li> </ul>
3	Good safe placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision for Foster Care</li> <li>• Placement Sufficiency Strategy</li> <li>• Increasing placement capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMTIM Panel Input</li> <li>• Strategic Partnership Annual Report</li> <li>• Feedback from foster carer consultation group</li> <li>• Quality Assurance of</li> </ul>

Meeting Date	Items for Forward Plan		
	Strategic Themes	Strategic item	Tabled items
			residential provision, including case studies
4	Relationships  Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with birth families</li> <li>Normality / Making York Home / Delegation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMTIM Panel Input</li> <li>Attendance or case studies reflecting the strengths of professional core groups and the impact this can have on outcomes for children</li> </ul>
5	Moving to Adulthood  Corporate Parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staying Put</li> <li>Performance scorecard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMTIM Panel Input</li> <li>Member visits to children's homes</li> </ul>

## Implications

26.

- **Financial:** *None*
- **Human Resources (HR):** *None*
- **Equalities:** *None*
- **Legal:** *None*
- **Crime and Disorder:** *None*
- **Information Technology (IT):** *None*
- **Property:** *None*
- **Other:** *None*

## Risk Management

27. Potential risks which would require further consideration might include:



- Some confusion by some people as to the nature and purpose of any changes. This would require clear communication across agencies and further consultation around the proposals with SMTIM
- A detailed and ambitious 12 month programme could become too complicated and resource intensive. This would require careful planning and review of arrangements throughout the 12 month period
- Terms of reference would need reviewing to ensure clarity of purpose
- The experiences of children and young people must remain the priority and agenda setting would need to make sure that all work and priorities retained this focus

### **Recommendations**

28. Members are requested to consider the report and provide feedback so that their thoughts and ideas are used to further strengthen local arrangements.

Reason: The feedback will be used to develop a detailed work programme which will be shared with members for final approval. A draft Communication Strategy will also be circulated for member approval.

### ***Contact Details***

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Report  
Approved



Date 21 June  
2016

**Wards Affected: All**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:** *None*

Abbreviations

SMTIM      Show Me That I Matter Panel