

Report to Cabinet

Title:	Corporate Parenting Strategy June 2017
Date:	Monday 5 June 2017
Date can be implemented:	Tuesday 13 June 2017
Author:	Warren Whyte – Cabinet Member Children’s Services
Contact officer:	Anthony Decrop – 01296 383953
Local members affected:	All
Portfolio areas affected:	Children Social Care & Learning

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

Corporate parenting is a whole-authority enterprise. When a child comes into care, the County Council becomes the Corporate Parent and as such is collectively responsible for providing the best care and safeguarding possible for the child. This extends to elected Members, employees and partner agencies. A child in the care of the Authority looks to the whole organisation to be the best parent it can be to that child. Every Member and employee of the Council has the statutory responsibility to act for that child in the same way that a good parent would act for their child.

Buckinghamshire’s corporate parents are required to work closely with their partners to ensure that the needs of our children are clearly identified and met at every level. This should encompass the strategic planning, commissioning, and integrated delivery of services.

To ensure that the best decisions are being made regarding our children the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017 has been devised. Full details can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

That Cabinet note and approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy, to be implemented July 2017.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

- Children Act 1989
- Change for Children Transformation Programme
- Corporate parenting Data Dashboard.

As Buckinghamshire Corporate Parents we believe:

- Looked after children and young people are entitled to the same care, support, stability, health and education as our own children.
- We need to ensure that services are flexible enough to support children and young people in our care to have high quality lives and happy childhoods.
- In developing new practices, initiatives or policies the County Council considers the needs of looked after children.
- Looked after children are actively encouraged to participate in decisions made about their lives, so that their experiences influence policy and practice.
- Access for looked after children to universal services is actively promoted, encouraging young people's sense of community and belonging.
- Service provision, communication and policies meet the needs of children with disabilities, and children from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds.
- Transition to adult services should be timely and services work together.
- In challenging negative perceptions and stereotypes and raise awareness at all levels of the County Council.
- Corporate parenting is about commitment and teamwork to bring about change.

The Corporate Parent Panel Strategic objectives are aligned with Buckinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan 2014-17 in that its purpose is to ensure that these vulnerable children's are safeguarded and their needs met. Overall responsibility for ensuring these objectives are achieved sits with the Corporate Parent Panel; however there may be shared responsibility for operational delivery. Some areas have several leads due to differing multiple within the objectives.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

It is a requirement for all local authorities to have a Corporate Parenting Strategy, the recommendations were developed with reference to best practice and in consultation with multi – agency partners and We Do Care Council!

C. Resource implications

N/A

D. Value for Money

N/A

E. Legal implications

N/A

F. Property implications

N/A

G. Other implications/issues

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

A draft strategy was discussed and agreed at the Corporate Parenting Panel in January 2017 by the then Cabinet member for Children’s Social Care. There has also been engagement with the We Do Care! (Children in Care) Council.

I. Communication issues

Once agreed the Strategy will be published through normal channels and with key agency partners

J. Progress Monitoring

The strategy will be monitored through the Corporate Parent Panel with a progress report to Cabinet in 6 months

K. Review

The strategy will be reviewed in June 2018 (or sooner if issues arise)

Background Papers

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Member Services Team by

5.00pm on Friday 2 June 2017. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk