

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**CORPORATE PARENTING**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel in relation to Corporate Parenting.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 13 October 2010, the council considered a report of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel in relation to Corporate Parenting.
- 2.2 The report was approved by council and referred to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations with a view to the preparation of an action plan.
- 2.3 The panel completed its review in September 2010. It was carried out with a brief -
- To examine the role of the council and its partners as corporate parents with a view to making recommendations on how effective the current practice and procedures are.
  - To investigate if the council is clear about its corporate parenting responsibilities and how to implement them.
  - To improve corporate parenting awareness and service delivery for Looked After Children in North Lincolnshire.
- 2.4 Following the review the panel made 12 detailed recommendations. A copy of the recommendations are attached as an appendix to the report.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 There are no options associated with this report.

4. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

4.1 There may be some resource implications associated with the recommendations when they are implemented.

5. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

5.1 There may be other implications associated with the implementation of the recommendations which will be highlighted in any action plan.

6. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

6.1 The panel consulted widely with other scrutiny members and officers and other organisations and individuals in relation to the preparation of the original report.

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 That the Director of Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services prepare an action plan in response to the recommendations of the report for submission to a future meeting of Cabinet.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC**

Pittwood House  
Ashby Road  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 1AB  
MDH/CH  
Author: Mel Holmes  
Date: 12 November 2010

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report** - Report of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

## Recommendations

The final recommendations of the panel are summarised below: -

### Recommendation 1

It is not evident that all Elected Members and Senior Officers are kept up to date with information about Looked After Children in North Lincolnshire, therefore, the panel would like to see arrangements put into place which regularly updated Members and officers in particular with information concerning their wards and LAC & YP.

### Recommendation 2

Along with receiving information about Looked after Children in their wards etc, Elected Members and officers require more information and opportunities to explore their role as Corporate Parents by attending events or speaking with young people. Regular bulletins should be issued to all members updating them of developments and key messages.

### Recommendation 3

It is evident that there is some good Corporate Parenting work being carried out across certain service areas. However some kind of mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure that all pledges are being reviewed, and that an audit trail is put in place to ensure that the actions in the pledges are carried out.

### Recommendation 4

The Corporate Parenting Group carries out a great deal of work. However, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services must ensure that this work gets filtered through to the wider sphere of members outside of the Children and Young People Service area.

### Recommendation 5

That more formal corporate visits be arranged that are pencilled in the calendars of the children's homes, this would inform the children of when members are arriving in order for them to be able to chat if they wish to do so.

### Recommendation 6

The panel would like to see a piece of work carried out to ensure we are doing everything as an council to ensure that LAC & YP GP records are transferred in a timely manner.

### Recommendation 7

LAC & YP are not always aware of Elected Members roles, responsibilities and the assistance they can provide. A leaflet should be developed and distributed to all

LAC&YP and care leavers explaining the role of members as their 'Corporate Parents' with their contact details and dates of their surgeries.

#### Recommendation 8

That all Elected members undertake mandatory training on their corporate parenting role, with refresher courses held every three years. The corporate parenting role should also be a compulsory part of any new members induction package.

#### Recommendation 9

That briefings/seminars on the corporate parenting role should be scheduled into the Member Development Programme for North Lincolnshire Council.

#### Recommendation 10

That the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel be kept informed of progress made with regards to the Virtual School team currently being established.

#### Recommendation 11

That this review be re-visited in 12 months time.

#### Recommendation 12

That everyone involved throughout this review be thanked for their participation and contributions.