

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE**

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

- 1.1 To report progress on the actions undertaken in response to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel Report on Corporate Parenting in North Lincolnshire.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 In September 2010, the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel completed their review of Corporate Parenting and the subsequent recommendations were developed into an Action Plan. This report introduces the action plan to take the recommendations forward.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Report recognised that there is much good practice in North Lincolnshire, including management of services, the representation of children and young people's views and the way that their views influence the development of services.
- 2.3 The scope of the review included an examination of the role of the Council and its partners as corporate parents, to investigate if the Council is clear about its Corporate Parenting responsibilities and how to implement them, and to improve Corporate Parenting awareness and service delivery for Children in Care. The report identified ten areas for further development.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The action plan details the actions in response to the Scrutiny Report recommendations. It is proposed that this action plan will meet the recommendations.

**4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The action plan will meet the recommendations of the scrutiny panel within the context of our Corporate Parent role.

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

5.1 Progress against the Action Plan relies upon input from a number of people. There are no additional resource implications.

**6. OTHER INFORMATION (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, OTHER)**

6.1 None

**7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel consulted widely when formulating the recommendations, including consultation with young people in care and staff of children's homes. The Children in Care Council and Garage Patch Kids (for younger children in care) continue to be actively involved in developments.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet approves the action plan.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Scrutiny report on Corporate Parenting

**North Lincolnshire Council**  
**Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel Report into Corporate Parenting**  
**Action Plan to Implement Recommendations – October 2010**

<b>Scrutiny Recommendation</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Date to be completed by</b>	<b>Update on Actions (12/01/2011)</b>
<p>1) It is not evident that all Elected Members and Senior Officers are kept up to date with information about Children In Care (CiC) in North Lincolnshire. The panel would, therefore, like to see arrangements put into place which regularly update Members and officers in particular with information concerning their wards and CiC.</p>	<p>Corporate parenting Group Minutes will be made available to Elected Members and Senior Officers.</p> <p>A quarterly news letter will be produced and provided to all Elected Members.</p>	<p>Head of Social Work</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Agreed to forward future minutes.</p> <p>The first news letter will be distributed at the Corporate Parenting event on the 18/2/11.</p>
<p>2) Along with receiving information about CiC 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 YP. Regular bulletins should be issued to all members updating them of developments and key messages.</p>	<p>Developments, key messages, and events will be contained within the News Letter</p> <p>The Children's Homes Managers will also invite the ward members to meet with them and the young people on a regular basis.</p>	<p>Service Manager</p>	<p>February 2011</p>	<p>The first news letter will be distributed at the Corporate Parenting event on the 18/2/11.</p> <p>The children's homes managers will contact ward members to invite them to the homes.</p>
<p>3) It is evident that there is some good Corporate Parenting work being carried across certain service areas. However a mechanism needs to be put in</p>	<p>Pledges will be reviewed quarterly at the Corporate Parenting group meeting.</p>	<p>Head of Social Work</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Corporate Parenting group will review the pledge and action plans on a quarterly basis.</p>

place to ensure that all pledges are being reviewed, and an audit trail is put in place to ensure that actions in the pledges are carried out.				
4) The Corporate Parenting Group carries out 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.	This information will be contained within the News Letter and made available to Elected Members.	Head of Social Work	18/2/2011	The first news letter will be distributed at the Corporate Parenting event on the 18/2/11. Elected members not attending will be sent a copy.
5) That more formal corporate visits be arranged that are penciled 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.	Elected Members who undertake corporate parenting visits will be able to formally plan their visits to ensure children know they are coming and can if they wish be available to talk to them.  Homes Managers will be informed of this and make formal arrangements when requested.	Service Manager, Independent Review	February 2011  Completed	All Elected Members who undertake Corporate Parenting visits will receive notification to this regard.
6) The panel would like to see a piece of work carried out to make sure we are doing everything as a council to make sure that CiC General Practitioner records are transferred in a timely manner.	We will review all cases to ensure children have an identified GP.  We will ask our Health Colleagues to ensure they have access to full information.	Service Manager	Completed	All children's cases have been reviewed and they have an identified GP.  The Health Lead within the Corporate Parent group as been asked to ensure the records are transferred as appropriate.

7) CiC 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.	A leaflet is to be compiled in conjunction with the Children in Care Council to ensure all children are aware of the elected member's role.	Service Manager	March 2011	The draft leaflet has been designed and as been submitted to the CiCC to seek their confirmation that this is child/young person friendly.
8) That all Elected Members undertake mandatory training on their Corporate Parenting role, with refresher courses held every three years. The Corporate Parenting training should also be a compulsory part of any new Member's and Senior Officers induction package.	Training to be built into the Elected Member training plan.  Information will be supplied to be incorporated into the Elected members/ Senior Officers Induction packs.	Service Manager  Head of Social Work	Completed  March 2011	Further training is arranged for 20 <sup>th</sup> / 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011. Member Support officer will include this in the 2011/12 plan.
9) That briefings/seminars on the Corporate Parenting role should be scheduled into the Member Development Programme for North Lincolnshire Council.	To schedule this as a part of the training plan for 2011/12	Head of Social Work	Completed  March 2011	Member Support officer have agreed to schedule these into the plan for 2011/12.  In addition to the above a brief information sheet will be developed to circulate to all elected members.
10) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel be kept informed of progress made with regards to the Virtual School team currently being established.	Progress update to be provided April 2011.	Assistant Director, Learning & Improvement	February 2011.	A briefing report will be submitted to the C & YP Scrutiny Panel.