



Doncaster Council

Report

21st November, 2019

To the Chair and Members of the
COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Nuala Fennelly	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board sets out the governance and membership of the Board; details the work plan; outlines key achievements and sets the work plan for the next year

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Council notes the content of the report recognises it is fit for propose and firmly established governance, celebrates the achievements made and recognises the planned programme of continuous improvement.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Children who are looked after and for whom officers and executive members have corporate parenting responsibilities have better support, improved outcomes and a direct voice on the Corporate Parenting Board

BACKGROUND TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

5. The Corporate Parenting Board comprises six elected members and two members of the Children in Care Council who are Young Advisors; its fundamental purpose is to ensure that the Council and the Doncaster Children's Services Trust effectively discharge their role as Corporate Parent for all the children and young people in their care.

6. As Corporate Parents elected members, and officers of the Council and Trust share a special responsibility for children in care which includes those in residential care; foster care; kinship/special guardianship carers, (family members other than a parent) and those who are looked after at home,(though few in number), and young people leaving care to provide the best possible care and safeguarding in the same way that a good parent would care for a child.
7. Key to the role of Corporate Parent is that of elected members holding officers to account; challenging service delivery and acting as champions and advocates for children in care and young people leaving care.
8. The Corporate Parenting Board is itself accountable to the full Council of Doncaster MBC and is required to present an annual report to Council which principally:
 - reviews and recognises the achievements and progress made in the last twelve months;
 - Provides an assessment of the challenges to be overcome and through the work plan how this is going to be achieved;
 - Reiterates its pledge and commitment to children in and leaving care.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

9. The attached annual report reviews the progress of services for children and young people which, it has challenged and overseen; including positive developments for in-house fostering numbers and quality of provision; Adoption performance and timeliness, (the latter having held up well, despite some case complexity) and children's homes provision; which has seen improved quality and better matching of children. All of these developments will not only deliver better outcomes for children and young people but also deliver better value for money.
10. Listening to children and young people is central to the work of the Board and to all those who work with this cohort. The report sets out the way in which the Board oversees a number of strategies and demonstrates how young people influence and shape the agenda at national, regional and local level.
11. As Council will know, Children's services was subject to an Ofsted inspection in November 2017, which rated services as 'Good'. Since then Adoption and Fostering have achieved 'Outstanding' judgements and this is the case for all individually inspected residential homes save one.
13. Fundamentally, the revised offer to children in care and young people leaving care and the totality of the Board's plans and activity, serve to underpin and reinforce Doncaster Children's Partnership ambition to become 'the most child friendly borough in the country'.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

15. Not applicable.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

16. As the Council oversees the work of the Corporate Parenting Board. The meeting is asked to formally endorse the Board's effective discharge of its functions.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

17.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>The Corporate Parenting Board receives reports on transitions to adulthood and supports access into education and employment for our young people leaving care</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Children in Care benefit from all Doncaster developments and the Corporate Parenting Board takes a keen interest in the collective support offered to our children by all services.</p> <p>Children in Care and young people leaving care have discounted access to a range of activities and targeted work is undertaken through a number of partnerships</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>The Corporate Parenting board receives regular reports from the Virtual School Head teacher and provides support and challenge</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust 	<p>Doncaster Caring is at the centre of the work of the Corporate Parenting board. The Board oversees all aspects of fostering, adoption and children's homes provision</p>

	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>A primary focus of the Corporate Parenting Board is to ensure all services play their role in improving the lives of our children in care and those of young people leaving care</p>
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

18. There are no risks and assumptions associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HP Date 19/4/18]

19. There are statutory obligations and guidance for the role of the Local Authority as the Corporate Parent in the Children's Act 1989 and 2004, Children and Young People Act 2008, Quality Protects 1998, DfES 2003 - Councillor's Guide to being a Corporate Parent and the Duty on Local Authorities to Promote the Educational Achievement of Looked after Children. The Annual Report sets out how we are meeting those legal requirements.

20. The Children's Trust carries out the role of corporate parent on behalf of the Council. Although the Trust performs Services on behalf of the Council, the legal powers and duties in relation to safeguarding children remain with the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer initials RM Date 8/11/19]

21. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 8/11/19]

22. There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials JT Date 8/11/19]

23. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials AI Date 8/11/19]

24. The Corporate Parenting Board plays a key role to improve health and reduce health inequalities for those children under the Local Authority's responsibility.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 8/11/19]

25. This report considers the needs of all children in care regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability or sexuality.

CONSULTATION

26. Consultation is referenced within reports presented to the Corporate Parenting Board. The voice of children in care is central to the work of the board. Two members of the Children in Care Council (young advisors) sit on the Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

27. Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report (attached).

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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