

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
21st June 2007

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
WORK PROGRAMME 2007 - 2008

**BRENDA THOMPSON - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES & LEARNING**

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CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Members a proposed work programme for the Corporate Parenting Board during the year 2007 - 2008.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

2. The Corporate Parenting Board has been operating for seven years and has achieved a great deal during that time. Whilst the Board has a clear overall remit (see Appendix 1), it is important to review and refresh the work of the Board on a regular basis. This ensures that the Board is clearly focussed on achieving the best possible outcomes for children looked after.

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME

3. For the last two years, the Corporate Parenting Board has used the Every Child Matters outcomes as a framework for five of its meetings. The Board considered each of these outcomes as it related to children looked after by the local authority. This proved to be a useful approach that made Members aware of the actions taken, and services available, to support children and young people for whom they have a corporate parenting responsibility.
4. The recent publication of a Green Paper, *Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care* (DfES, October 2006), has

given a clear indication of the government's intentions with regard to future legislation in respect of services for children and young people in public care.

5. It is proposed that during the forthcoming year, Members consider the proposals contained within the Care Matters Green Paper in greater detail. Adopting this approach would enable Members to debate key aspects of their corporate parenting responsibilities and to consider the possible impact of meeting future legislative requirements.
6. In addition, there are a number of regular reports that are submitted to the Corporate Parenting Board to enable the authority to comply with Statutory Regulations and recommended good practice. These reports are scheduled throughout the year.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

7. The proposals contained within this report are intended to inform Members of their responsibilities as corporate parents and to ensure that they understand current issues relating to children looked after. This will enable them to advise the Executive and other Members of the Council on effective corporate responses to meeting the needs of children looked after.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no immediate financial or legal implications arising from this report. This report is of interest to all Members.

RECOMMENDATION

9. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:
 - a) Consider the proposed work programme.

REASON

10. The recommendation is supported by the following reason:
 - a) To enable the Corporate Parenting Board to continue to make good progress in ensuring that the authority fulfils its corporate parenting responsibilities.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING – JENNI COOKE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report:

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APPENDIX 1

Remit of the Corporate Parenting Board

The Board will work in an advisory capacity to the Executive Body with the following terms of reference:

To be responsible for the Council's role as Corporate Parent to those children and young people who are looked after and accommodated by the Local Authority.

That responsibility to also include:

- (i) Ensuring that the education, health and social needs of Children Looked After by the Authority are met;
- (ii) Developing effective corporate responses to fulfil the Authority's responsibilities as a Corporate Parent;
- (iii) To implement changes to policy and practice and inform service development in the context of corporate parenting;
- (iv) The dissemination of information concerned with its responsibilities associated with corporate parenting to all elected Members and relevant staff; and
- (v) The implementation, maintenance and review of this Council's 'Corporate Parenting Policy and Strategy' document.