

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

<p>Corporate Parenting Board Forward Work Programme 2010-2011</p>
--

Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr
Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings

24th June 2010

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Corporate Parenting Board with an outline Forward Work Programme for 2010-2011 (Appendix 1).

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to approve the outline Forward Work Programme 2010-2011.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent
Urgent report

If urgent, please give full reasons.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. The Corporate Parenting Board is responsible for advising the Executive on all matters relating to corporate parenting. The aim is to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people who are looked after by the local

authority and care leavers by considering new legislation and guidance, monitoring performance and identifying issues of concern.

6. There are two guidance documents for Councillors: *"If this were my child..."* (DfES 2003) and *"Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice"* (National Children's Bureau, 2008) that provide advice on the role of elected Members as corporate parents. Both these documents recommend a range of questions that Councillors should consider.
7. In addition, new Statutory Guidance, *"The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services"* (DCSF, 2009), identifies a similar range of information that elected Members should expect to receive on a regular basis. This guidance also emphasises the importance of partnership working, particularly in relation to Children's Trusts and Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Following publication of this guidance, a review of corporate parenting arrangements in Middlesbrough was initiated [Executive (15/9/09), Members' seminar (15/10/09), Corporate Parenting Board (29/10/09 & 22/4/2010)].
8. In relation to partnership working, a number of local authorities in the North East established a Multi-agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP), as part of a government pilot project in 2004. At that time, Middlesbrough already had an inter-agency strategic planning and implementation group in place and it was agreed that this effectively acted as the authority's MALAP. In light of the new guidance for Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services, it would seem appropriate to review that situation as part of the overall review of corporate parenting arrangements.
9. Following the introduction of the Every Child Matters outcomes framework, the Corporate Parenting Board adopted this framework as a focus for considering the support provided to children looked after. This proved to be a useful approach that made Members aware of the actions taken, and services available, to enable children and young people to achieve the five outcomes.
10. There are a number of regular reports submitted to the Corporate Parenting Board to enable the authority to comply with Statutory Regulations and recommended good practice. These reports have been scheduled throughout the year and address many of the questions for Councillors identified in the guidance documents mentioned above.

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME

11. A key element of the Corporate Parenting Board Forward Work Programme for this year will be to take forward the review of corporate parenting arrangements. As part of that process, it is proposed that a new approach be adopted to the structure of the forward work programme as follows:
 - a. All the regular performance data information and reports required under regulations will be packaged differently and considered at two 'business meetings' during the year.

- b. There will be two meetings that focus on strategic planning issues, timed to inform planning cycles and budgetary processes. Discussions will be undertaken with partner agencies in relation to developing a Multi-agency Looked After Partnership that would meet with the Corporate Parenting Board as part of that process.
 - c. At least two meetings will have a specific focus, for example, Education and Health. A wider range of people would be invited to attend and these meetings might take the form of a seminar.
 - d. Meetings with children and young people will be arranged following a discussion with them as to their views and preferences. In the interim, it may be appropriate for one or two Members to meet informally with children and young people and this will be arranged on an ad hoc basis. It should be noted that six young people recently had an informal meeting with the Mayor, the Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning and the Director of Children, Families & Learning. In addition, children looked after have been involved, as part of a wider group of young people, in meetings with Children's Trust Theme group chairs, the Children and Young People's Champion, the Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning, the Director of Children, Families & Learning, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel.
12. An outline Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1. Further detail will be added as the new approach develops.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. All social care services are delivered within a framework of anti-discriminatory practice and there are no specific issues arising from the information presented within this report.

OPTION APPRAISAL

14. The proposals contained within this report support the review of corporate parenting arrangements in Middlesbrough. A key element of the review is to ensure compliance with statutory guidance and to strengthen the capacity of the Corporate Parenting Board to advise the Executive and other Members of the Council on effective corporate and partnership responses to meet the needs of children looked after.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

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

RECOMMENDATION

16. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to approve the outline Forward Work Programme 2010-2011.

REASONS

17. This recommendation will enable the Corporate Parenting Board to comply with statutory requirements and to advise the Executive effectively.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- *If this were my child...* (2003, Department for Education & Skills & Local Government Information Unit)
 - *Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice* (2008, National Children's Bureau)
 - *The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services* (2009, DCSF)
 - Reports to the Corporate Parenting Board (29/10/2009 & 22/4/2010) and to Executive (15/9/2009)

Author: Sue Little, Children's Participation Officer
Tel No: 01642 728706

Address: 1st Floor Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL
Website: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>

APPENDIX 1

Corporate Parenting Board Outline Forward Work Programme 2010-2011

Date	Type of Meeting	Comments
24/6/2010	Overview of corporate parenting issues	Introductory meeting – initial ‘training’ for new Members
29/7/2010	Business Meeting: Independent Reviewing Officers’ Annual Report April 2009 – March 2010 Advocacy Annual Report April 2009 to March 2010 Performance Data April 2009 – March 2010 (profile, trends and Ward-based Data) Adoption Annual Report including Statement of Purpose & Children’s Guide Fostering Annual Report including Statement of Purpose & Children’s Guide Family Placement Panel Activity Report September 2009 to March 2010 Five Rivers Annual Report incorporating Partnership Board Report Summary of Regulation 33 Reports & Rota Visits April 2009 – March 2010 Children Missing from Placement (confidential)	Reports required to comply with regulations, guidance and protocols
9/9/2010	Strategic Planning Meeting: Agenda under development Chair’s Report on Partnerships in Corporate Parenting Reports relating to the Children’s Trust and the Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board	Opportunity to invite strategic partners
28/10/2010	Focus on Health	Opportunity to invite key Health Managers

Date	Type of Meeting	Comments
9/12/2010	Focus on Education	Lead by the Virtual Head Opportunity to invite representation from Schools & Colleges
20/1/2011	Business Meeting: Overview of Support from Integrated Youth Service & Youth Offending Service Pathways Leaving Care Service Annual Report Family Placement Panel Activity Report April 2010 to September 2010 Performance Data Children Missing from Placement (confidential)	Reports required to comply with regulations, guidance and protocols
3/3/2011	Strategic Planning Meeting: Agenda under development	Opportunity to invite strategic partners
14/4/2011	Focus Meeting Topic to be decided	