

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORT

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

Councillor Mike Carr, Executive Member for Children Families and Learning

Gill Rollings, Executive Director of Children, Families & Learning

24 April 2012

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- To seek approval to combine the functions of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP) to create a partnership which improves the lives of children who are looked after and improves their long-term outcomes by working closely with partners from key agencies and Middlesbrough Councillors. The new arrangements will also provide a direct interface between Councillors and operational managers from a range of organisations.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Executive is recommended to:
 - Accept and endorse the proposal to merge the Corporate Parenting Board and the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership.
 - Accept the proposed terms of reference for the new Corporate Parenting Board / Multi Agency Looked After Partnership.
 - Request that the Children in Care Council (CICC) provide a name for the new arrangements, which will replace the Corporate Parenting Board / Multi Agency Looked After Partnership.

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| It is over the financial threshold (£150,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non Key | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

- For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Urgent report	<input type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. The Corporate Parenting Board was created in February 2000 in response to the previous Government's initiative 'Quality Protects' in 1998. The Multi Agency Looked After Partnership was formally constituted in 2001, when it replaced the Children Looked After Group (CLAG).
6. Within Middlesbrough, the Corporate Parenting Board was constituted as part of the political process; it has been well attended and supported by senior Councillors and some 'backbenchers'. To date, the Board has provided a scrutiny role, overseeing a range of activities relating to looked after children, with officers presenting reports on a range of topics.
7. More recently, the current Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board has attempted to initiate more dialogue with officers about key issues, for example, the educational progress of Looked After Children. This has had limited success and both the Chair and the Chief Executive would like this to be a more challenging and dynamic process.
8. The MALAP has undertaken parallel activities, addressing practical issues relating to the care and management of Looked After Children.
9. The Executive Member for Children, Families and Learning and the Chief Executive have agreed that the CPB and the MALAP should take on a more proactive role and following recent discussions, it was agreed that a new model of involvement of both Councillors and officers should be considered. A new model would also include senior officers from organisations outside the Council; it would also include stronger links with the CICC, Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB), Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children and Young People's Trust. (See Appendix 1, Terms of Reference)
10. It is also proposed that the Virtual School establishes a full governing body with its membership being made up of Councillors and officers, with the 'Chair of Governors' attending the CPB / MALAP. A separate paper will be produced by the Achievement Services to explain the Constitution of the proposed Governing Body.
11. The CPB / MALAP will agree an annual work programme, which will be determined by the members of the group and informed by the Children in Care Council. Issues that may be discussed include:
 - Educational Achievement of Children Looked After
 - Children Missing from Home
 - Employment and Training Opportunities for Care Leavers
 - Suitable Accommodation for Care Leavers
 - A Strategy for Residential Care within Middlesbrough
 - Managing Risk
12. The intention of these proposals is to take the current Corporate Parenting Board to another level in terms of challenge and responsibility. It recognises the interest and commitment of the current membership, but identifies and acknowledges the difficult financial environment that we now work within. Consequently, it is important that we maximise the opportunity to access resources across all areas of the

Council and its partner agencies to ensure the life chances and opportunities for Looked After Children are improved and to ensure that there are better outcomes across all aspects of their lives.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IA)

13. A Level 1 impact assessment has been carried out on the proposals to revise the remit of the Corporate Parenting Board. The impact assessment found that the proposal would have a positive impact on looked after children.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no financial implications at this stage.
15. There are no legal or ward implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The Executive is recommended to:
 - Accept and endorse the proposal to merge the Corporate Parenting Board and the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership.
 - Accept the proposed terms of reference for the new Corporate Parenting Board / Multi Agency Looked After Partnership.
 - Request that the Children in Care Council (CICC) provide a name for the new arrangements, which will replace the Corporate Parenting Board / Multi Agency Looked After Partnership.

REASONS

17. The reasons for the recommendations in this report are:
 - To build on the existing Corporate Parenting Board arrangements and improve the outcomes for Looked After Children.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

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