
Corporate Parenting Panel

Committee considering report:	Council on 19 May 2016
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Lynne Doherty
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	11 March 2016
Report Author:	Andy Day, Head of Strategic Support
Forward Plan Ref:	C3103

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report proposes changes to the governance of the Corporate Parenting Panel to provide a robust framework that upholds the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation carrying out its responsibilities towards children and young people in care including care leavers.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Corporate Parenting Panel's governance be amended to include new membership and new terms of reference as set out in Appendix "B".

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** There are no financial implications associated with this change of governance arrangement.
- 3.2 **Policy:** The changes to the governance of the Corporate Parenting Panel will help to support the Council existing policies around Looked After Children.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** N/A
- 3.4 **Legal:** The new governance arrangements will meet the requirements of the Children's Act 1989.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** N/A
- 3.6 **Property:** N/A
- 3.7 **Other:** N/A

4. Executive Summary

- 4.1 Corporate parenting is a statutory function of the Council. The leadership and commitment of Elected Members in their role as Corporate Parents is of critical importance in achieving good outcomes for children and young people in care.
- 4.2 The Ofsted inspection of Children's Services undertaken in March 2015 provided an overall judgement that Children Services in West Berkshire were inadequate. The inspection concluded, amongst other things, that the characteristics of good leadership were not in place but that the local authority had recognised this and were taking action to address this.
- 4.3 One of the comments made by the Ofsted inspection team was that there was a need to "ensure that the Corporate Parenting Panel and children in Council care consistently contributed to improved outcomes for looked after children".
- 4.4 A review of the current Corporate Parenting Panel arrangements has taken place and this report recommends proposals for strengthening those arrangements to ensure robust challenge and improved outcomes for Looked after Children (LAC) in the district.
- 4.5 The review has therefore looked at membership, objectives, scrutiny mechanisms that are in place, performance monitoring and reporting mechanisms in order to provide a robust governance structure for the future.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 This report proposes changes to the governance arrangements of the Corporate Parenting Panel in order to strengthen and provide a robust challenge and improved outcomes for Looked after Children in the district.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A - Supporting Information
- 6.2 Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment