

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (INFORMAL)</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
<b>5 OCTOBER 2016</b>	PUBLIC REPORT

## Report of the Corporate Director People and Communities

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### CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report sets out the proposed new arrangements for Corporate Parenting Champions.

This report addresses all areas of priority for the Committee. It is also relates to Section 2.4.3.6 (f) of the Committee's Terms of Reference: To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care in respect to the following strands:

- i) Housing
- ii) Employment and training opportunities within council departments and with partner agencies
- iii) Health
- iv) Educational Attainment and access to Higher Education
- v) Recreation and Leisure activities
- vi) Finance and benefits

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee adopts the report's recommendations as listed below:

2.2 The Corporate Parenting Champions 2016–2017 are:

Area of Focus	Champion	Officer Lead
Housing	Councillor Coles	Sean Evans
Employment And Training Opportunities Within The Council Departments And Partner Agencies	Councillor Holdich OBE	
Health	Councillor Ayres	Samantha Martin
Education Attainment and Access To Higher Education	Councillor Holdich OBE	Dee Glover
Recreation and Leisure Activities	Vacant	Sian Stevens
Finance and Benefits	Councillor Bull	Susan Holden

2.3

In between each Committee the Corporate Parenting Champion will be responsible for the following:

- a) Meeting with the Lead Officer
- b) Undertaking a site visit
- c) Meeting with a child in care / young person / service user / other officers and discuss their experience of the service for Children in Care
- d) Contributing to a brief report back to the Committee

2.4 A new report template will be developed for the Champions' report, this will be completed jointly between the Champion and Lead Officer.

### **3. LINK TO THE CHILDREN IN CARE PLEDGE**

3.1 The report addresses all areas of the Children In Care Pledge and the Care Leavers' Charter. It specifically addresses the requirement to deliver effective support to Children In Care by validating and triangulating information to quality assure services.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Ofsted Inspection in May 2015 identified the area listed below where the Council needed to develop its performance:

4.2

- Ensure that there is a more robust approach to Corporate Parenting and that elected members and senior managers listen to, and act on, the experiences of children and young people in order to improve their lives.

4.3 Significant changes have already taken place and a report setting out the proposed new structure of the Committee meetings is being presented alongside this report.

4.4 The concept of Corporate Parenting Champions is not new, however its impact has not been as hoped. Therefore a new framework with a clearer set of expectations will create a better delivery model.

### **5. KEY ISSUES**

5.1 All Councillors are 'corporate parents' for children who are looked after by Peterborough City Council. This can be a daunting task, therefore we need to provide the right conditions whereby members can consistently ask themselves "if this were my child, would it be good enough?"

5.2 Corporate parenting is different from being an 'ordinary' parent and Councillors have previously asked what they can actually do to demonstrate their commitment.

5.3 As part of a broad range of improvements to support the role of Corporate Parents, the role of Corporate Parent Champions will be refreshed.

5.4 Key Councillors have been identified to specifically champion the needs of children and young people in care across the various functions of the council.

5.5 Corporate Parent Champions will help to ensure the needs of children and young people in care are always high on the agenda of all council activity in order to improve outcomes for them.

5.6 Appointed Champions will be supported by Lead Officers and report into the Corporate Parenting Committee.

5.7 Between each informal committee meetings, the allocated Champions will:

1. Meet with the Lead Officer
2. Undertake a site visit
3. Meet with a service user and operational officer
4. Contribute to a brief report for the Committee

5.8 Champions will be provided with key questions / lines of enquiry to help to give an understanding of the specific service area.

### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There will be some implications for both Officers and elected Champions in terms of an increased time commitment required to undertake the required task.
- 6.2 Support will be required to produce a report template to ensure Champion reports are clear and concise. Members will also need support by the Lead Officer to complete the report.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The content of this report is up for consultation during the committee meeting (informal) on 5 October 2016.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 Simon Green to draft a reporting template and identify Lead Officers for focus areas ready for a launch in January 2017.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 None.

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 None.

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