

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
21 NOVEMBER 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Corporate Director People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Myra O'Farrell, Head of Service	Tel. 864391

CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS REPORT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Corporate Parenting Committee Chair	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Recommend to Council that the Committee's terms of reference is updated to allow the Committee to create and appoint to Corporate Parenting Champion positions on a yearly basis; and II. Subject to Council approving the updated terms of reference, to create a new Champion position to support Effective Care Planning and appoint Councillor Dennis Jones to the position for the remainder of the 2018/2019 municipal year. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following the recent request by the Committee to adopt a further Corporate Parenting Champion position for Effective Care Planning at its informal meeting held on 12 September 2018.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This report asks the Committee to recommend to Council that the terms of reference are amended to allow the Committee to set their own Corporate Parenting Champion roles and appoint to those positions accordingly on a yearly basis.
- 2.2 Currently the Corporate Parenting Committee terms of reference 2.4.3.6 states that the Committee would appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care in respect of 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

2.3

The proposed change to the Corporate Parenting Committee terms of reference 2.4.3.6 states: That the Committee would appoint elected members to Champions for Children in Care, with the roles being decided and approved by the Committee at the first formal meeting of the municipal year.

2.4

Following the request by Committee, officers investigated the options and it was felt appropriate to recommend that the terms of reference be changed to allow the Committee to set its own Champion roles and appoint to those roles on an annual basis. The Committee's terms of reference would need to be updated to permit the positions and appointments.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 In July 2018 the Corporate Parenting Committee Champions for 2018 – 19 were confirmed as:

Champion Role	Councillor
Housing	Cllr Stokes
Employment and Training Opportunities within the Council Departments and Partner Agencies	Cllr Ayres
Health	Cllr Aitken
Education Attainment and access to higher education	Cllr Ayres
Recreation and Leisure activities	Cllr Smith
Finance and benefits	Cllr Bond

4.2 In between each Committee the Corporate Parenting Champion are 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, jointly between Champion and Lead Officer

4.3 **Key Issues**

Following a request to create an additional Champion position to support children in care and their families experiencing breakdown issues within foster placements; the Committee agreed that officers should explore the options to create a new position.

4.3.1 Officers explored the options and felt that it would be of more benefit to the Committee if they had the opportunity to set and appoint its own Champion positions, in order for the roles to effectively support children in care and care leavers where most needed.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consulted with officers Corporate Parenting Committee at the informal meeting, which included the prospective nominee.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 Ensure there is a more robust approach to supporting the experiences of children and young people in order to improve their lives.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Champion appointments were requirement under the Committee's terms of reference.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 To not appoint an 'Effective Care Planning' Champion - this was dismissed as it would not support children in care, care leavers and their foster families.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Other Implications

- 9.4 The appointment of Corporate Parenting Champions provides an opportunity to ensure that the level of service provided to Children in care and care leavers is to the highest standard.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Committee terms of reference amendment.

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