

By Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 20 January 2017

Subject: **REVIEW OF OPERATION OF THE NEW CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL MODEL**

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Divisions: All

Summary: Following a decision by Members at the meeting on 15 March 2016 to merge the Kent Corporate Parenting Group and the Corporate Parenting Panel, it was agreed that the operation of the new combined Panel should be reviewed after six months in operation.

Recommendation: The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **DISCUSS** the operation of the current Corporate Parenting Panel model.

1. Current Model

- 1.1 The merger of the Kent Corporate Parenting Group and the Corporate Parenting Panel took effect from 1 April 2016, with the aim of bringing together elected Councillors and multi-agency partners in a forum that would ensure the best interests of all Looked After Children in Kent's care are given the highest priority and would help to shape the Council's agenda.
- 1.2 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to consider whether the current model has been successful in achieving these aims.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference for the amalgamated Panel are shown below, alongside a revised and updated membership list.

2. Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference April 2016

2.1 About the Corporate Parenting Panel

2.1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) is a multi-agency forum made up of Kent County Council's elected councillors representing all parties as well as the multi-agency partners in Kent who are responsible for delivering good and effective Corporate Parenting for Children and Young People.

2.1.2 The Panel, chaired by the Deputy Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, confirms the joint commitment to improving services and outcomes for children and care leavers for whom the Council is corporate parent. The

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel will be drawn from the Kent County Council's elected councillors.

2.1.3 The Panel's role is to lead on ensuring the Corporate Parenting responsibilities of the multi-agency partnership are being met, in line with the Children Act 1989. Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the general duty of the local authority in relation to children looked after by them; to safeguard and promote the welfare of these children, ensuring effective, individualised support and access to services. This duty is inclusive of both children and young people with care orders and those provided with accommodation.

2.1.4 Kent's Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-16 sets out what good and effective Corporate Parenting looks like, alongside our key strategic objectives. The Strategy's ambitions assist in the Council's overarching vision that "Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life".

2.1.5 This commitment is one of three strategic outcomes which provide a simple and effective focus for everything the Council does; they are set out in Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020.

2.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel is accountable:

- To the County Council and Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
- To looked after children, care leavers and their carers or guardians
- To each respective member on the Panel and the relevant senior management team of each agency that is represented.

2.3 Roles and Responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Panel:

- To develop expertise about services for and issues affecting children and young people, both in care and leaving care; in doing so, elected Councillors are enabled to fulfil their role as corporate parenting champions and advocates for Kent Children who are looked after, and those leaving local authority care
- To provide the multi-agency strategic direction for services and projects working to achieve good outcomes for both children in local authority and leaving care
- To actively raise the awareness of other elected Councillors, the Cabinet and the County Council to the whole Council's corporate parenting responsibilities towards Kent's Looked after children and care leavers
- To oversee and challenge progress and performance against the objectives within Kent's Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy. The strategy consists of four priority areas which represent the corporate parenting ambitions for children and young people both in care and leaving care. The four priority areas are:
 1. Working Together and Learning;
 2. Developing into successful and responsible adults;
 3. Being emotionally, mentally and physically healthy; and
 4. Feeling safe and nurtured in a home setting.
- To consider any changes arising from relevant legislation, guidance or reviews

- To lead on ensuring that the corporate parenting roles and responsibilities of the Local Authority are being met, including:
 - Local expectations and the promises made via Kent's Pledge to Looked after Children and Kent's Care Leavers Charter;
 - To be aware of national expectations regarding the services to looked after children (including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) and Care Leavers; including those contained in reports from the Office of the Children's Commissioner, the adoption reform agenda, changes to permanent planning and the commitment to 'staying put';
 - To creatively consider ways in which the Corporate Parenting Panel will hear and respond to the views of Looked after Children, Care Leavers, their parents and carers;
 - To have an understanding of the arrangements that need to be in place in order to be an effective Corporate Parent;
 - To undertake an in-depth analysis of the needs of the County Council's care population and all aspects of the service required to meet those needs, so there is clear evidence to inform future action;
 - To take action continually, in conjunction with officers and partner agencies, to improve services and ensure it is responsive and meeting changing needs; and
 - To report in a timely manner to the relevant Local Member(s) as and when such may be required
- To support the chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel, the Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services in undertaking their specialist Level 3 Corporate Parenting responsibilities (National Children's Bureau, Hart and Williams 2013)
- To highlight the issues relevant for scrutiny
- To act as the governing body to the Virtual School for Kent
- To consider reports from the Kent Safeguarding Children's Board (KSCB), 0-25 Health and Wellbeing Board, Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee and Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers
- To consider Statistical Information about both looked after children and care leavers' health and wellbeing and attainment. To ensure that Corporate Parenting Panel members have enough background knowledge to understand and evaluate this information
- To work alongside Our Children and Young People's Council in order to gather feedback from all those involved in and working with/on behalf of looked after children and care leavers. This will include ongoing engagement with Foster Carers and other user groups.

2.4 Membership

Ann Allen (Chair)	Deputy Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services	Kent County Council
Geoff Lymer	Deputy Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services	Kent County Council
Penny Cole	Elected Councillor for Dartford East	Kent County Council
Sue Howes	Elected Councillor for Northfleet & Gravesend West	Kent County Council
Diane Marsh	Elected Councillor for Gravesham East	Kent County Council
Bob Neaves	Elected Councillor for Folkestone South	Kent County Council
Martin Vye	Elected Councillor for Canterbury City South West	Kent County Council
Jenny Whittle	Elected Councillor for Maidstone Rural East	Kent County Council
Zita Wiltshire	Elected Councillor for Broadstairs & Sir Moses Montefiore	Kent County Council
Carolyn Moody	Foster Carer	Kent County Council
Teresa Carpenter	Foster Carer	Kent County Council
Stuart Griffiths	Foster Carer	Kent County Council
Bella Taylor	Apprentice	Kent County Council
Sophia Dunstan	Apprentice	Kent County Council
	plus one shared seat for Apprentices – <i>currently vacant</i>	Kent County Council
Philip Segurola	Director, Specialist Children's Services	Kent County Council
Naintara Khosla	Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting	Kent County Council
Sue Dunn	Head of Skills and Employability (Education and Young People's Services)	Kent County Council
Tony Doran	Headmaster Virtual School Kent (VSK)	Kent County Council
Andrew Heather	Principal Educational Psychologist	Kent County Council
Louise Fisher	Early Help Head of Service and Youth Justice lead	Kent County Council
Stephen Gray	Chief Executive Officer	Young Lives Foundation
Hazel Carpenter	Accountable Officer	South Kent Coast and Thanet CCGs
Bethan Haskins	Chief Nurse	Ashford and Canterbury and Coastal CCGs

3. Recommendations

3.1 Recommendations: The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **DISCUSS** the operation of the current CPP model.

4. Background Documents

None

5. Report Author/Lead Director

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