

From: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Select Committee – 23 February 2017

Subject: **CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT – Update February 2017**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway: N/A

Future Pathway: N/A

Electoral Division: All

Summary: The Corporate Parenting Select Committee conducted a review of Members' role as elected corporate parents. The report made 15 recommendations for improving Members' oversight role as corporate parents. There has been progress made on the action plan with the oversight of the Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting.

Recommendations: The Select Committee is asked to **NOTE** the content of this report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Select Committee was established in February 2015 to review Kent County Council's corporate parenting arrangements and to make recommendations for the improvement of Members' oversight of their role.
- 1.2. The Corporate Parenting Select Committee ensures there is a focus on elected Member and officer corporate parent responsibilities. The scrutiny provided by the Committee enhances the focus on delivering the best outcomes for Children in Care and supports practice development.
- 1.3. The previous report and recommendations were agreed by the Corporate Parenting Select Committee on the 11 November 2015 and this was endorsed by the County Council on the 10 December 2015. The Scrutiny Committee reviewed the plan and progress in March 2016 and the Select Committee was required to reconvene to consider an update in February 2017.

2. Update and Progress for Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting

- 2.1 The Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting provides oversight for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, ensuring that Members are briefed about key issues. There have been reports to the Corporate Parenting Panel which also reflect the effectiveness of Member scrutiny, ensuring that officers report on key issues which arise. The reports to the Corporate Parenting Panel have included updates on placement stability; scrutiny of the annual report on the adoption service and also provided a review of fostering. Reports have also been provided to ensure the health services of Looked after Children and the needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are appropriately met.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Corporate Parent obligations that are legally placed on the Kent County Council require Members and officers to work together along with partner agencies to ensure that children in care are well looked after. The Select Committee's role provides the Member oversight required to ensure corporate parenting responsibilities are being met.
- 3.2 Following the Select Committee's consideration, the next formal step will be a reconvening of the Select Committee to review progress after 12 months in January 2018.

4. Recommendations

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| 4.1 Recommendations: The Select Committee is asked to NOTE the content of this report. |
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5. Background Documents

Corporate Parenting Select Committee Report, December 2015

http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/51890/Corporate-Parenting-Select-Committee-report.pdf

6. Report Author

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