

# Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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**Subject: Local Government Association offer for Corporate Parenting**

## **Summary statement:**

This report outlines the offer from Local Government Association (LGA) to review and support Corporate Parenting Panels

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

There is no direct impact in terms of equality and diversity from this report but this will be considered as part of the review.

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**Portfolio: Children & Families**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area: Children's  
Services**

## 1. SUMMARY

- This report outlines the offer from Local Government Association (LGA) to review and support Corporate Parenting Panels.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Looking after and protecting children and young people is one of the most important jobs that councils do and when a child, for whatever reason, can't safely stay at home, it is up to the local authority to step in and give them the care, support and stability that they deserve.

All councillors and council employees have a unique responsibility to be 'corporate parents' to children they care for and their care leavers. A strong corporate parenting ethos means that everyone from the Chief Executive and their council-wide corporate or strategic management team to frontline staff and elected council members, are passionate about those children they care for and care experienced young people as if they were their own.

Good corporate parenting reflects the breadth of children and young people's experiences and councils are responsible for engaging education, police, probation, health and district and borough councils and other key partners.

As part of the LGA's continuing work to support political and corporate leadership for children's services we are offering support to councils in improving their corporate parenting and in ensuring corporate parenting is a way of working across the council.

### **Aims of the offer**

Through our support, development and training offer we aim to support councils in:

- Embedding strong governance and accountability for Corporate Parenting, with clear understanding of responsibilities and expectations.
- Achieving a whole system approach to Corporate Parenting across the wider council and partners, driven by the voice and experiences of children and young people.
- Understanding what good looks like and measuring impact.
- Achieving improved outcomes for children and young people who are care experienced.

### **Offer overview**

The offer includes a range of universal, targeted and specialist elements, which can be accessed according to the needs of each individual council:

- Guidance, resources and case studies
- Independent evaluation and assessment
- Training and support
- Peer to peer support

## **Guidance, resources and case studies**

- Updated LGA Corporate Parenting pack
- Structure and functioning of a strong Corporate Parenting Board
- Maximising membership and impact of partners
- What good looks like in corporate parenting – measuring and understanding impact and outcomes
- Embedding the voice of children and young people
- Embedding a Champions approach at Corporate Parenting Board Member and officer level
- Independent evaluation and assessment

A two-day peer diagnostic to deliver an independent assessment of areas of strength and those that require improvements, with recommendations for how this can be achieved. The peer team includes:

- A council Leader or Lead Member for children's services (lead peer)
- A senior children's services officer (DCS or AD level)
- A peer diagnostic manager

## **Flexible Support and Training Offer**

Flexible training offer intends to support councils in addressing any recommendations for improvement identified in the diagnostic or in their own self-evaluation. It covers the six modules which form the basis of the Peer Diagnostic tool and can be tailored and scaled to the specific needs of councils. For example:

- **Group session 1**  
Two hour workshops with Corporate Parenting Board covering two to three modules
- **Group session 2**  
Two hour workshops with Corporate Parenting Board covering two to three modules
- **Whole council session**  
For all council members
- **Action Planning and embedding learning**  
Plenary sessions with two hour workshops with Corporate Parenting Board Chair, Lead Member, DCS and democratic services  
Review of progress against self-assessment / diagnostic  
Actions to take forward and how to sustain and embed progress
- **Review and follow up**  
Review of progress after six months  
Self-assessment to be revisited annually.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

None

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

There are no financial risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations

### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

If there are no significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations it should be stated but only on advice of the Assistant Director Finance and Procurement and the City Solicitor.

### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- If there are no legal issues arising this should be stated, but only on advice from the City Solicitor.

### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

#### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- N/A

#### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

- N/A

#### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- N/A

#### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

- N/A

#### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

- N/A.

#### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

- N/A

## **7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Refer to the guidance contained in the Report Guide.

## **7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

Undertake a Privacy Impact Assessment to determine whether you need to deal with data protection and information security matters arising from the proposal/decision.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

➤ N/A

## **9. OPTIONS**

a) Note report and take no further action – this will leave the panel operating as is and there is an urgent requirement for the panel to be reviewed and make sure it is current and fully fit for propos going forward and able to meet the ever changing needs of children and their families in Bradford District.

b) Agree the review and training of the panel – this will reassure the panel and the council that the Corporate Parenting Panel is doing the best for children and families of Bradford district council.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Option b), agree the review and training of the panel

## **11. APPENDICES**

➤ None

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

➤ None