

# Public Document Pack



## NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>Meeting</b>	Corporate Parenting Board
<b>Date and Time</b>	Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 10.00am
<b>Place</b>	Ashburton Hall, Ell Court, Winchester
<b>Enquiries to</b>	members.services@hants.gov.uk

Carolyn Williamson FCPFA  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

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## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.

**4. DEPUTATIONS**

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements the Chairman may wish to make.

**6. BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK - ENGAGEMENT AND RECENT ACTIVITIES**

An opportunity for Board members to provide a verbal update on their recent engagement activities.

**7. CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ACTION LOG (Pages 11 - 14)**

To receive an update from the Director of Children's Services on the Corporate Parenting Board's Action Log.

**8. FOSTERING SERVICE UPDATE**

To receive an update from the Director of Children's Services on the Fostering Service.

**9. CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE EXPERIENCED ADULTS COUNCILS AND PARTICIPATION UPDATE (Pages 15 - 22)**

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the Children in Care and Care Experienced Adults Councils and participation.

**10. FERNE LODGE CHILDREN'S HOME UPDATE**

To receive an update from the Director of Children's Services on Ferne Lodge Children's Home.

**11. CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW (Pages 23 - 32)**

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services providing members of the Corporate Parenting Board with the context, background, and rationale in relation to the proposed revision of the Terms of Reference of the Board.

**ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

**ABOUT THIS MEETING:**

**The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk) for assistance.**

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

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# Agenda Item 3

AT A MEETING of the Corporate Parenting Board of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle, Winchester on Wednesday 8th November 2023

Chairman:  
p Councillor Ann Briggs

p Councillor Fran Carpenter  
a Councillor Pal Hayre  
p Councillor Juliet Henderson  
a Councillor Wayne Irish

a Councillor Alexis McEvoy  
a Councillor Arun Mummalaneni  
p Councillor Malcolm Wade  
p Councillor Phil North

## 70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Irish, Hayre, McEvoy and Mummalaneni.

## 71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

## 72. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed.

## 73. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made.

## 74. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman shared details of several events they had attended and reflected on their positive impact for Children in Care.

## 75. BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK - ENGAGEMENT AND RECENT ACTIVITIES

Several members shared positive feedback in relation to recent Personal Education Plan and Children Looked After Review meetings they had attended.

**76. CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ACTION LOG**

The Corporate Parenting Board reviewed the updated Corporate Parenting Board Action Log, used to track the progress of required actions and report back to the Board.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board note the updated Action Log for the Board.

**77. MODERNISING PLACEMENTS PROGRAMME**

The Corporate Parenting Board received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the Modernising Placements Programme.

Officers set out the issues the programme were designed to address and provided details of the projects in place to do so. Details were provided of the work in relation to Fostering, Residential settings and the training provided. Members noted the progress of the 'Hampshire Hives' and the focus for the coming year.

In response to questions members found that:

- C.40% of placements were out of county, which included Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and those placed in Southampton, Portsmouth and on the Isle of Wight.
- Trauma training was available for Hampshire's Foster Carers and staff in residential settings, which included virtual reality resources that demonstrated a child's experience of trauma to allow greater understanding of its affect.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board note the update on the Modernising Placements Programme.

**78. TRANSFORMATION OF FAMILY HELP**

The Corporate Parenting Board received a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of the transformation of Family Help.

Officers explained how this transformation work was driven by the Independent Review of Children's Social Care and sought to enable families to access support and services within their local communities. Members noted the focus on families receiving the right support, from the right professional at the right time to reduce the likelihood of more complex needs arising.

The Board noted that the changes planned for Family Help are based around putting the child at the centre of their network, wrapping support and services around them to improve their outcomes, whilst ensuring their safety. Members

heard that services will continue to be based on the existing foundation of the Hampshire Approach and the strength based, relational approach to working with families.

In response to questions members found that:

- The department has seen an increase in the number of referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding hub but the thresholds have remained unchanged.

RESOLVED:

That the work undertaken in relation to the Transformation of Family Help are noted by the Corporate Parenting Board.

79. **VIRTUAL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER**

The Corporate Parenting Board received a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on Hampshire's Virtual School.

The Board received an overview of the progress of Hampshire's Children in Care's educational attainment broken down by Early Years, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and Post-16.

Officers noted that the data summarised within the report was based on provisional figures obtained from schools, as the actual figures would not be available until early 2024.

In response to questions members found that:

- Eight new case workers had been employed.
- The new electronic personal education plan had launched in September 2023.
- Undiagnosed speech and language issues are a focus for the service as they can have a significant impact on a child's development.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board note the Virtual School activities to support and improve educational outcomes for Hampshire's Children Looked After.

80. **UPDATE ON PARTICIPATION ACTION PLAN FOR 2023**

The Corporate Parenting Board received a report from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the Participation Action Plan for 2023. This included the development of the Children in Care and Care Experienced Adult's Councils.

The Board noted the success of the co-design day in September and the establishment of a participation network for staff involved in participation within Hampshire, alongside a network for the South East. Officers set out the plan for

the continuous improvement of participation in Hampshire which included priority areas identified by young people.

In response to questions members found that:

- The Directorate focussed on the need to hear the voice of the child in all areas.
- Work was being undertaken to further support young people placed out of county with initiatives such as Council Tax reductions in the same way as those still resident in Hampshire.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board note the update on the Participation Action Plan for 2023.

**81. FAMILY CONNECTIONS SERVICE - POST SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDER SUPPORT SERVICE**

The Corporate Parenting Board received a report from the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of the Family Connections and Post Special Guardianship Order Support Services.

Officers explained that the Family Connections Service was formed in August 2021 to ensure that a sole team manager had consistent oversight and to drive the expansion of the service to not only assess connected carers, but to provide post Special Guardianship Order support. The Post SGO Support Service was created in January 2023.

Member's noted that there are currently 884 children on a Special Guardianship Order in Hampshire, including the children that Hampshire's Children's Services had involvement with either through care proceedings or assessing private SGO applicants. It did not include children from other Local Authorities but resident in Hampshire that are eligible for Post Order support.

The Board noted that in 2022, there were 69 SGOs granted and as of September, there have been 54 SGOs granted in 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board note the update on the Family Connections Service and the Post Special Guardianship Order Support Service.

**82. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

The Corporate Parenting Board received a presentation from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB) providing an update on the health of Children Looked After.

The Board received an overview of the purpose and content of the statutory health assessment which looked at the child's state of health, including physical, emotional and mental health alongside the effect of the child's health history on



their development. Members noted the specific health requirements of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), including the 41% rate of UASC needing treatment for an infectious disease and elevated risk of suicide.

Members received an update of Health Assessments for Hampshire's Children in Care, noting that the performance indicator was the timeliness of health assessments being held where a child was looked after for 12 months or more. The target for this is currently set at 85%, with Hampshire currently at 76% completion as of the end August 2023. It was noted that additional funding to address the backlog of Review Health Assessments was provided and this backlog has now cleared.

The Board heard that the volume of Initial Health Assessments was predicted to increase with the new process being embedded in Children's Services, but three additional GPs had been recruited to the increase capacity. The Board were also provided updates on Children in Care's dental checks and immunisations.

In response to questions members found that:

- The ICB provided a single point of contact and daily updates to Children's Services to speed up the process and the backlog was aimed to be cleared in the next year.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board note the update on Children Looked After Health Assessments.

83. **HAMPSHIRE'S READINESS TO MEET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PHASE 2 REPORT: CHILD SAFEGUARDING REVIEW PANEL - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND COMPLEX HEALTH NEEDS IN RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS**

The Corporate Parenting Board received a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Services setting out Hampshire's Readiness to meet recommendations from the Phase 2 Report from the Child Safeguarding Review Panel regarding Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs in Residential Settings.

Officer's provided a summary of the nine recommendations, explaining that many were already being met or on the way to being met by the Directorate's current practise. The areas which still required development were noted alongside the fact that there was more guidance and information to support the recommendations to be provided.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board notes the report and is further assured by the work being undertaken locally by Hampshire partners in response to the national reports from the Child Safeguarding Review Panel.

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Chairman, Corporate Parenting Board

Action no.	Date created	Action What have we heard from children and young people that you want to/want us to take action on?  What have we heard in the Corporate Parenting Board that you want to/want us to take action on?	Desired outcome/impact	Councillor/s linked to action/priority	Young person contact (use initials)	HCC Staff and service responsible for action	Partner Agency staff member and agency responsible for action	Due by	Updates	Date completed	Open or Closed
1	28-Mar-23	Councillors shadowing social workers and other staff in the branch (IWs/IROs), including visits to districts	To get a good indication of the day to day work of Children's Services	All members		DM/KM		13-Mar-24	See timetable. The proposal is we pause sending this timetable and align this with the revised proposal of CPB activity.	05 July - this is an ongoing action	
2	28-Mar-23	Children and young people to attend the Corporate Parenting Board - for us to arrange this as part of the CPB meeting	To hear the voice of the child so that any strategic plans meet the expressed needs of children and they are satisfied with the service they receive	AB	CICC Chair CEAC Chair	SP/DM		08-Nov-23	Training completed on 28 June and joint workshop booked for 16 September Motiv8 now recruiting young people for councils 13 March - councils up and running from Sep 23 and young people will attend when revised TOR agreed.	16-Sep-23	Closed
3	28-Mar-23	Ensure that every child has a timely health assessment	Children remain healthy and any health needs identified are met in a timely way			DM/KM	VF, SAy (Health - CLA Nurses)	08-Nov-23	Health assessment improvement work ongoing - recent update presented to branch management team 13 Feb - ongoing action, update next due in Jul '24		
4	28-Mar-23	Annual report to the CPB on Children with disabilities in care	Offer assurance to CPB members that we have a robust system in place and that children with disabilities who are in care are safe and well looked after.	AB		KL		Mar-24	Report presented in November 2023 to the Board	08-Nov-23	Closed
5	28-Mar-23	Develop metrics on children in care and care leavers who enter the criminal justice system - agree a new priority area and report on this in the next annual Care Leavers report ( due July 2024)	Young people who leave care have specific support to prevent their entry into the criminal justice system			SP/KM/NS	Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Probation Service, YJS	Mar-24	YJS HoS is working on a strategy which is a long term piece of work so closing in the CPB and will be reported within Care Leavers Annual report	13-Mar-24	Closed
6	28-Mar-23	Report back on in touch data and what we are doing to improve this. Look to other LAs to see what good practice is around the region in the next Annual Care Leavers report ( due July 2024)	Increase the number and percentage of young people and adults who we keep in touch with so that they have the support they need as and when they need it	Cllr D		SP/KM		Mar-24	Annual Care Leavers Report deferred to July 24 due to change in running of CPB to have only 3 reports per meeting. 1 March - New project commencing this month for meeting extended duties of keeping in touch with qualifying care leavers.		
7	28-Mar-23	Data/feedback in relation to impact of having council tax 100% discount to be gathered for next CPB so we can feedback and have some dialogue with borough and district councils	Further strengthening the offer to care leavers is a priority on the district and borough council agenda	Cllr N		SP/KM		05-Jul-23	Update obtained and will be circulated to members	Completed 05 July 2023	Closed
8	28-Mar-23	Make a plan in relation to what we need from Borough Councils so we can make formal requests for example, leisure passes, access to apprenticeships etc, ( can this be in the Chair's letter?)	Care leavers have access to opportunities that other young people have which will seek to address to some level the disadvantages they have faced during their childhood	Cllr B, Cllr N		DM/KM		05-Jul-23	Pending to get views from CICC and CEAC 13 Feb - Views from CIC and CL obtained and will be incorporated into letter. Put on hold due to review of TOR		
9	28-Mar-23	CPB Chair writes to Leaders of Borough and District Councils to ask them how they see their corporate parenting responsibilities are being driven forward ( can this be in the Chair's letter?)	Further strengthening the offer to care leavers is a priority on the district and borough council agenda	Cllr B, SA		KM		05-Jul-23	Pending to get views from CICC and CEAC 13 Feb - Views from CIC and CL obtained and will be incorporated into letter. Put on hold due to review of TOR		
10	28-Mar-23	CPB Chair and officers to visit district and borough councils to raise awareness on corporate parenting responsibilities	Further strengthening the offer to care leavers is a priority on the district and borough council agenda	Cllr B, SA		KM		05-Jul-23	Member's Briefing on 9 January 2024 to raise awareness re corporate parenting responsibilities	Completed 10 Jan 24	Closed
11	28-Mar-23	Bring back how we have progressed CLA Care Plan Audit actions	CPB can be assured that we are taking action as corporate parents	Cllr B		SM IRS and SB		08-Nov-23	Deferred with agreement of DD so that a more comprehensive update can be provided in March '24 13 Feb - requested update from SM, will be tabled at Board.		
12	28-Mar-23	Add 'instigate change' to the slide on participation	We are fully sighted on impact of hearing the voice of the child	Cllr W		SB/SP		05-Jul-23	Completed	05-Jul-23	Closed
13	05-Jul-23	Feedback to Cllr C re PEP that she attended	You said, we did - response	Cllr C		KM		08-Nov-23	Completed by email	12-Sep-23	Closed

14	05-Jul-23	Pack for Cllrs to give them some background on child/meeting they were observing - Create info pack on CSD processes and practice. <b>In relation to individual children, Cllrs to speak to worker/manager before or after meeting.</b>	Raised awareness of the core business of children's services and in specific relation to CIC/social worker	Cllr H		KM/DM		08-Nov-23	19 October - pack being prepared for release in December 2023 13 Feb - work delayed due to prioritising system changes		
15	05-Jul-23	Follow up individual case that Cllr H attended HRSM - Cllr H to follow child's journey	Assurance is gained on child's plan	Cllr H		DM		08-Nov-23	Query on Child level data and information sitting in the remit of the Board	08-Nov-23	Closed
16	05-Jul-23	Tell the good news story on the work of Children's Services - liaise with Corporate Comms	There is a positive understanding of the work of Children's Services in the public arena.	Cllr B, all members		KM		08-Nov-23	12 Sep 23 - In train with corporate comms and SW identified to provide good news story 19 October - ideas in train to pull together stories where impact of work is evident. A 'Day in the life of' type activity is proposed. 13 February - Corporate comms engaged in this to produce a positive piece on social work in the community. Stories being published in line with World Social Work Day on 19 March 2024		
17	05-Jul-23	Follow up contact with Cllr C who met with Cllr H from Gurkha community for fostering recruitment	The fostering recruitment message is publicised which leads to a rise in enquiries/assessments	Cllr C		SS		08-Nov-23	Cllr C's feedback was passed on to the Marketing Officer and followed up.	08-Nov-23	Closed
18	05-Jul-23	Letter from Chair to partners re their Corporate Parenting responsibilities	Partners are fully engaged and contribute to the plans and service provision for the child.	Cllr B		SA/KM		08-Nov-23	Will be drafted following co-design workshop on 16 Sep so it incorporates the views of CIC and CE adults. See action no. 26	08-Nov-23	Closed
19	05-Jul-23	Briefing on strategic issues to Board so they can understand landscape	Members are aware of current social care landscape and engage with and support the strategic direction of the service.	Cllr H		SA/KM		08-Nov-23	Members aware of Family Help update provided on 8 November 2023	08-Nov-23	
20	05-Jul-23	Train Cllrs to elicit the voice of children	Cllrs feel able and confident in engaging with children and young people to elicit their views. They are then able to feed back to young people on improvements made in relation to the feedback they received.	Cllr C		SP		08-Nov-23	Will be considered as part of the development work of the Board and being presented on 8 Nov 23 Presentation at All Members Briefing on the Corporate Parenting role of Councillors on 10 Jan 2024	08-Nov-23	Closed
20	05-Jul-23	Briefing report at the next CPB on the development of FAMILY Help and the role of partners within this	Members are fully sighted on the strategic direction of the service on Family Help	Cllr C		SN		08-Nov-23	Presenting to Board on 8 Nov 23	08-Nov-23	Closed
21	05-Jul-23	Facilitate 'roadshows' and a range of cllrs who can support with events and messaging re fostering recruitment via Fostering marketing officer	The fostering recruitment message is publicised which leads to a rise in enquiries/assessments	Cllr H, Cllr C		Fostering Marketing Officer		08-Nov-23	This was explored back in Nov 22. It was agreed at the time that this was not a route we wished to pursue as a blanket approach due to a variety of reasons - consistent availability of Cllrs, budget and resource to back this and the strategic justification as the county wide campaign had achieved success. We are reviewing this and seeing how we can be more targeted with 2 or 3 Cllrs linked in.	08-Nov-23	Closed
22	05-Jul-23	Stats for comparator LAs for attainment and progress for CLA	Members are aware of the key indicators on attainment and progress and the actions taken to address this	Cllr W		MN		08-Nov-23	Actions 22, 23 and 24 are rolled into one action and being presented to the Board on 8 November	08-Nov-23	Closed
23	05-Jul-23	Comparable table for attainment and progress to be presented to members for 2023	Members are aware of the key indicators on attainment and progress and the actions taken to address this	Cllr D		MN		08-Nov-23	Actions 22, 23 and 24 are rolled into one action and being presented to the Board on 8 November	08-Nov-23	Closed
24	05-Jul-23	Interim report on educational outcomes for this academic year and actions we are taking to address these.	Members are aware of the key indicators on attainment and progress and the actions taken to address this	Cllr B				08-Nov-23	Actions 22, 23 and 24 are rolled into one action and being presented to the Board on 8 November	08-Nov-23	Closed
25	05-Jul-23	Post SGO support update to CPB in November 2023	Members are aware of the good work of the Family Connections Service in supporting SGO carers	Cllr B		DM		08-Nov-23	Presenting to Board on 8 Nov 23 - completed	08-Nov-23	Closed
26	08-Nov-23	Draft a letter to the Leader of Gosport re council tax exemption	Borough Councils meet their corporate parenting duties to care leavers and care experienced people have support to live in suitable housing.	Cllr N		KM/DM	Borough Councils	13-Mar-24	See action 29		
27	08-Nov-23	Cllr N to feedback to next Board on any actions for the Board or officers, arising from observing a PEP	We follow up on any strategic priorities identified	Cllr N		DM		13-Mar-24	Awaiting update		
28	08-Nov-23	Young People have said they prefer that people who come to meet them to dress casually - NO SUITS!	Young people are confident that we take their views seriously.	Cllr H		All		13-Mar-24	Closed	13-Mar-24	
29	08-Nov-23	Meeting to brainstorm how we approach correspondence to Borough Councils about benefits for care leavers.	Borough Councils meet their corporate parenting duties to care leavers and care experienced people have support to live in suitable housing.	Cllr N		SH/KM	Borough Councils	10-Jul-24	Not set up yet but will be prioritised in the next month.		

30	08-Nov-23	Update re the impact of R&R workstream in MPP	Members are fully sighted on the strategic direction of the service in relation to sufficiency	Cllr N				10-Jul-24	MPP now closed and all recruitment and retention activity will be undertaken as BAU	13-Mar-24	
31	08-Nov-23	Report on SE Fostering Recruitment Hub work to March 2024	Members are fully sighted on the strategic direction of the service in relation to sufficiency	Cllr N		SS	SE Sector Led Improvement Programme	13-Mar-24	Report due to be presented in March 2024 Board		
32	08-Nov-23	Consideration for embedding speech and language screening and how we advocate for this	Children remain healthy and any health needs identified are met in a timely way. Needs are identified early and access to required interventions is timely.	All members		MN	MP	13-Mar-24	Update due from Designated Doctor		
33	08-Nov-23	Implement a plan for Cllrs to meet with CICC or CEAC members so they can directly hear their views and opinions. ( See action 2)	To hear the voice of the child so that any strategic plans meet the expressed needs of children and they are satisfied with the service they receive	All members		SP		13-Mar-24	On hold due to the revision of CPB TOR		
34	08-Nov-23	Meeting with Chair prior to CPB to discuss agenda	The focus on the Board remains on strategic priorities identified in a shared manner with young people, members and officers of the Council.	Cllr B		KM/SH		13-Mar-24	On hold due to the revision of CPB TOR		
35	08-Nov-23	Review Terms Of Reference of the CPB	The focus on the Board remains on strategic priorities identified in a shared manner with young people, members and officers of the Council.	All members		KM/SH		13-Mar-24	TOR will be agreed in March 2024		
36	08-Nov-23	All recomms from Participation update agreed and will be reported on in the Participation update in November 2024	Members are aware of participation plan in order to contribute to it and avail of opportunities to meet children and young people.	All members		SP		30-Oct-24	In train, due Oct 24		

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>Board:</b>	Corporate Parenting Board
<b>Date:</b>	13 March 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Children In Care and Care Experienced Adults Councils and Participation Update
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Sarah Plummer, Service Manager (Service Improvement and IRS)

**Email:** Sarah.plummer@hants.gov.uk

### **Purpose of this Report**

1. This is a joint report from the Participation Lead and the Children in Care and Care Experienced Adults Councils.
2. This report is for information.

### **Recommendations**

3. That the Corporate Parenting Board note the contents of the Children In Care and Care Experienced Adults Councils and Participation Update report.

### **Part 1: Progress against Participation Action Plan**

4. Following the report taken to CPB in November 2023 we are now putting into action the activities and events we discussed.

### **Feedback Fortnight (WC 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March)**

*Capturing and responding to feedback from our children and their parents/families living at home*

What's going to happen?

- Events across relevant Districts and Services
- Coordinated approach to capturing feedback using a new 'Shout App', MS forms and focus groups
- Meet your Directors and Councilors opportunities
- Response to feedback: You said, we did – this may be a video for example available for all families to show we're listening and responding to what we've heard

### **My Life My Future Month (Mid June – Mid July)**

*Capturing, working together with, and responding to feedback from our children in care and our care experienced adults*

What's going to happen?

- As Feedback Fortnight above, plus
- The whole month will be planned and co-delivered with the CIC and CEA Councils.

### **Care Leavers Week**

As previous years, this well-established event is led by CL Teams and we'll integrate our new feedback tools and the CEA Councils. Last year, the participation lead for the councils attended events in person to talk directly with young people about the council and about priority areas to gain feedback.

### **Challenge Cards**

In Spring 2024 we are introducing a challenge card process, for example 'START, STOP, CHANGE'. When the idea has enough support (i.e. 4 votes for example) that 'challenge' is sent to the Corporate Parenting Board who will respond directly to the young person.

### **SHOUT feedback App**

Throughout 2024 we are trialing the SHOUT feedback app. This year we want to target our questions during the 3 events, with a centrally coordinated App so we can

- Ask a few questions well, rather than lots of questions over the year
- See all the feedback in one place to identify themes
- Build a baseline to track responses over the years
- Publish what we've heard, and what we're going to do about it.

5. In introducing these activities and events (alongside the work happening locally and within the new Councils) we will 'supercharge' our participation and provide far more opportunities for young people to meaningfully contribute towards the development of their service – and more routes to respond to that feedback. We also will share the action plan with the Councils so that they are able to contribute to the strategic direction of travel.

## **Part 2: Work and feedback from the CiC and CEA Councils**

### *Young people's views about engaging with the Corporate Parenting Board*

Young people told us how they want to work with the CPB. Based on this feedback the following changes are being introduced.

Hearing and responding to the voices of young people

- A pre-meet between the Chair (and any others) and the CIC/CEA Councils before every CPB. Young people have requested the following format
  - o Video call preferable
  - o Weekday evenings after 5:30/6pm
  - o Half hour/hour meeting time no longer
  - o Send out a rough agenda for meeting so members can prepare themselves
- CIC/CEA Councils will produce a summary for each CPB of their views and work they're doing (this document is the first of these summaries)
- Motiv8 will coordinate the Challenge Cards which will be introduced in the Spring. Challenge cards enable young people to raise issues they'd like to start/stop/change and CPB will need to action and respond to them.



- CPB members will be involved in the key participation events (feedback fortnight, MLMF month and CL week) plus local district and service events.

#### Make up of CPB

- Feedback from Council members as our co-design day was – “why does CPB have to be made up of only Councilors?” “Why can’t it be a broader group with wider range of membership including young people, adults with care experience, staff with care experience”. We are taking forward this feedback via a review of the CPB Terms of Reference.

### **The Councils**

6. The Children in Care (CIC) and Care Experienced Adults (CEA) councils came online in the summer of 2023. We currently have 19 members of CEA Council and 13 members of CIC Council. Of these we have a core group that are really keen to engage in any events in person and within working groups. The rest of the members give their feedback if they feel passionate about the subject and information is shared regularly with them if they wish to participate, for example sharing details of the Coram Voice event. We have adapted the approach to the Councils that everyone in Hampshire is part of the Council but it’s up to the individual what they want that participation to look like. For example, they could be in regular meetings to discuss priorities or they may wish to just send feedback in when they feel they need to. This way we can ensure a diverse cohort on the Councils and everyone gets a chance to share their opinion and feedback.

7. The following areas are being explored by our Councils throughout 2024:

#### *Addressing stigma*

The Councils identified this as a key priority area for them. They have been working with Motiv8 to create and share life stories on social media. Further developments may include creating resources with young people to share in schools. The Councils have started sharing their stories on the stigma of being in care and using this as a tool to share their stories on our social media pages so other young people can relate, feel empowered and educate themselves if they haven’t experienced being in care. Members of the Councils are creating a core working group to meet once a month to start to explore ways which stigma can be reduced in schools as they explained this is where they experienced the most stigma. One of these resources is nearing completion and is awaiting final review from the young person who has contributed to this. There will be a link to share at the CPB.

#### *Benefits and access for Care Leavers*

The Councils are helping HCC to understand what benefits and opportunities care leavers would benefit from, and helping us to work with partners to put these in place. Care Leavers on the Council have been clear that care leavers would like an increased awareness of the resources and benefits in the community and this will be part of the work of the Councils. They are working closely to discuss what they were offered to see any differences and exploring other benefits that would be useful for other care leavers.

#### *Recruitment of Foster Carers*

The Councils shared they are keen to get involved with the recruitment of foster carers. Due to commitments like work, school or college they've suggested setting up a meeting to explore key questions they agree on which could be introduced into the interview process. This is a recently identified priority and Motiv8 will follow this up with the service to check what information is needed.

### *My Life My Future Month and awards*

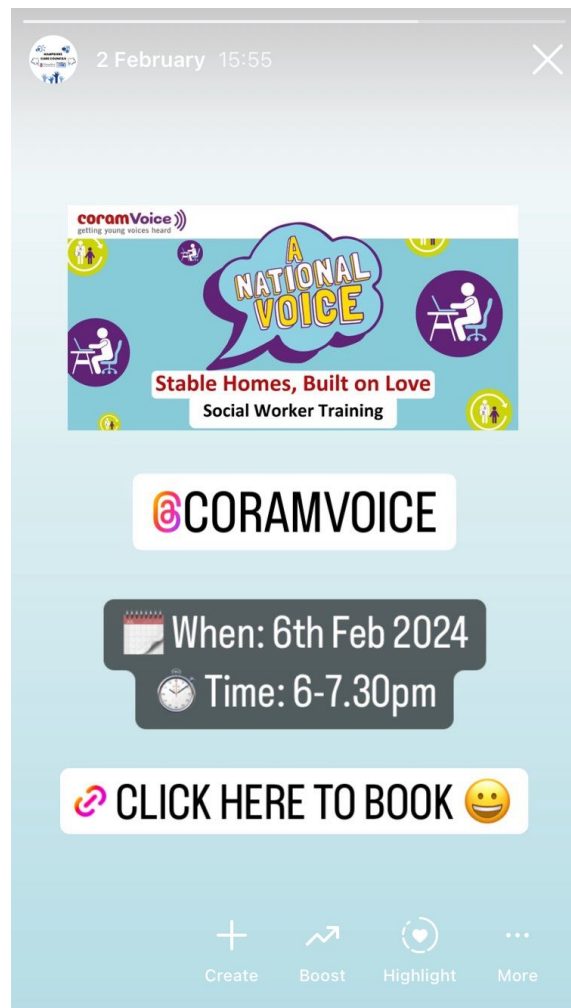
The Councils will play a significant role in planning and delivering the MLMF month and awards. We are in the early stages of setting up a working group within the councils whom are passionate about this and want to work together to come up with ideas to support MLMF.

### *Reaching all our children in care and care leavers*

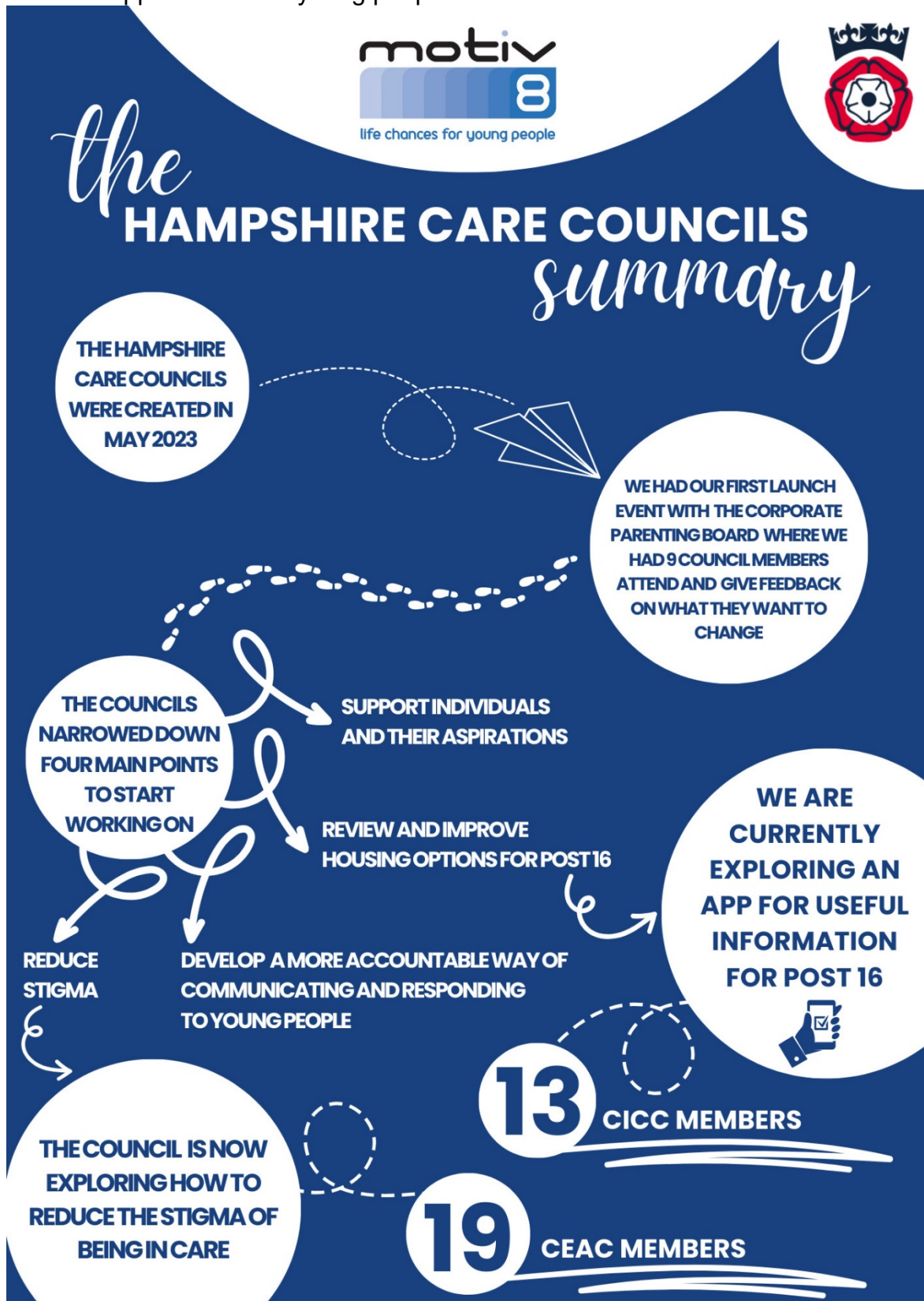
Another priority for the Councils is to make sure we reach as many of our children in care and care leavers as possible, this includes children living out of county, those with disabilities and those for whom English is an additional language.

### *Social Media*

The Hampshire Care Council Instagram page has a total of 70 followers and are following 44 relevant pages. We have been researching Become charity social pages to keep up to date and share information that would be useful for our Hampshire Care Councils. We shared an event we attended over Care Leavers



week at Mayflower Theatre and we had likes from a number of other services and comments from Estranged and Care Experienced Students (EaCES) page. Our top content on the page is posting on our stories and sharing events like Coram Voice which gave the option for young people to book directly onto the event to increase opportunities for young people to access.



## **Consultation and Equalities**

8. The Participation Action Plan is designed to provide further opportunities for consultation with children, families and staff. Equality impact was considered as part of the procurement of the CIC and CEA Councils and is an ongoing consideration in the development of our recommendations.

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

9. There are no climate change implications to this report.

**CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because: This report is for information only</b>	

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p><b>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</b></p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

An updated EIA will produced as part of the recommendations from this project.

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Panel:</b>	Corporate Parenting Board
<b>Date:</b>	13 March 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Corporate Parenting Board - Terms of Reference Review
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Kavitha Maxy, Area Director

**Email:** kavitha.maxy@hants.gov.uk

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) with a summary of the context, background, and rationale in relation to the revision of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the CPB.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That the Corporate Parenting Board agree the revised Terms of Reference and endorse it being presented to the County Council for approval.

### Executive Summary

3. Vulnerable children lie at the heart of our corporate priorities, and we are determined to innovate and continuously improve our services to children. Following the last full inspection of Children's Services, the Corporate Parenting Board was re-constituted in 2020 as a full committee of the County Council, to reflect the importance of Member scrutiny and involvement as Corporate Parents.
4. We received an Ofsted Focused Visit on Children in Care in January 2023. One of the areas for improvement was for the local authority to strengthen the representation of children's voices at the CPB. We had already identified this as an area of focus prior to the visit and were in the process of commissioning an independent organisation to facilitate our new children in care and care experienced adults' councils.
5. Work has been undertaken in the last 12 months in partnership with the members of the CPB and the Lead Members for Children's Services and Education to strengthen the impact of the CPB in shaping services to children in care and care leavers. Lead members and the Chair of the CPB have also met with Chairs of CPBs (Corporate Parenting Board) in other local authorities like Essex and North Yorkshire to understand how Boards in other

outstanding authorities work effectively. The Chair of the CPB in Essex is their Lead Member for Children's Services.

6. The CPB acts strategically to ensure that children looked after and care leavers are effectively supported to reach their potential through the provision of excellent parenting, high quality education, opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood.
7. The CPB has a responsibility to oversee and review the quality and effectiveness of services for CLA (Children Looked After) delivered by Corporate Parents, this includes the council, partner agencies and commissioned services, to ensure that every child and young person looked after is supported to be safe, happy, healthy and to achieve their full potential.
8. The revised TOR outlines an increased frequency from three to four meetings per year to ensure there is regular strategic oversight of our services to children in care and care leavers and the opportunity for members of the Board to hear directly from children and care experienced people about their priorities.
9. We recognise the unique role the CPB plays in hearing, acting and responding to the voices of children in care and those who are care experienced. There is a commitment from the CPB to sharpen its focus on impact of hearing the voice of children and this informing the business of the Board. Members of the CPB have heard of the extensive work happening in various areas of the directorate through updating reports from officers. But importantly and perhaps more crucially, members have and will continue to hear directly from children and young people resulting in action to ensure their views are reflected in the strategic priorities of the council.

### **Contextual information**

10. In July 2023 independent training took place for all CPB members to explore more fully:
  - Their role and responsibilities as CPB members
  - The journey of children into care
  - Meaningful participation
  - How to engage with young people.

The feedback from this training was excellent and an increase in attendance and engagement in CPB was noted following this event.

11. In September 2023, Councillors met with care experienced adults and children in care to hear their views on what they considered to be priorities for the council's officers and members to work on.
12. Young people informed us that they wished to be more involved in shaping our priorities but also in being able to communicate regularly with senior



leaders and councillors. They were clear that they also expected to hear back about the suggestions and concerns they shared with us.

13. The Leader of the Council, the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services all agree that the CPB would benefit from a revision of its Terms of Reference, including a greater focus on the Chair and membership of the Board.
14. The commitment to enhance the status of the Board to reflect its importance and key position in the democratic structure of the council is reflected in the proposal for the Lead Member for Children's Services to become the Chair of the CPB.
15. The other key emphasis in the revised TOR is on membership of the Board which includes representation from the Care Experienced Adults Council, and from a foster carer.
16. Setting clear expectations of partners agencies including Housing, Health agencies and the Police, of their corporate parenting responsibilities, will be the responsibility of the Chair and strategic and political focus will be placed on this.
17. A central function of the Corporate Parenting Board is to listen to the voice of children and young people looked after and leaving care and ensure that their views influence service design, delivery, and improvement. The Board should be able to clearly demonstrate its impact and communicate this to children and young people.
18. Further work is planned to support members of the Board in engaging with children in care and care leavers. Members have requested guidance on how to engage with young people so that they feel able to share their experiences and views with members. Members will work closely with officers on an ongoing basis (not just in Board meetings) to translate what they hear from children into a strategic vision and a high-level action plan.
19. The Chair of the Board along with members will continue to gain a full understanding of the needs of the children we look after and are responsible for agreeing the precepts of the strategic vision for children in care and care leavers in Hampshire.

## **Finance**

20. There are no direct implications in relation to the CPB Terms of Reference from a finance point of view.
21. The CPB will be sighted on the costs related to children in care and care leavers through agreeing the Children's Services budget in Full Council.

## **Performance**

22. The effectiveness and impact of the CPB will be part of the inspection process and any Ofsted judgement of the Local Authority.
23. It may be pertinent for us to discuss a set of key performance indicators in relation to the CPB and its effectiveness and impact once the TOR are agreed.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

24. No specific implications in this area for this report.

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

25. No specific implications in this area for this report

## **Conclusions**

26. The Corporate Parenting Board has made a positive journey in the last 12 months in relation to coming closer to the core activities carried out by social workers in relation to children in care and care leavers.
27. The Corporate Parenting Board is well informed on the transformative work we have undertaken in core areas of practice, in relation to ensuring we have sufficient good quality placements for children who need to be looked after, creating networks of support for children and their carers, ensuring that the educational support our children receive is excellent, ensuring we make transition into adulthood as smooth as it can be, and several other areas.
28. The key change to the TOR is in respect of the Chair of the CPB. It is intended for this role to be undertaken by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
29. The CPB will meet at an increased frequency of four times a year to ensure that children in care and care leavers have their views heard in a timely manner and so that members and officers can work together to meet agreed outcomes.
30. We recognise that there is a lot more to be done, most importantly, improving our mechanisms to listen to children and act on their views and wishes. The revised terms of reference document are an important cog in the system to help us achieve this successfully.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Date</u>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act regarding the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
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- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard to:

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- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

## **Hampshire Corporate Parenting Board**

### **DRAFT** Terms of Reference

The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) is a Board made up of Hampshire County Council's elected councillors representing all parties, as well as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Care Experienced Adults Council. Multi-agency partners in Hampshire, who are responsible for delivering good and effective corporate parenting for children and young people, are invited to attend the Board to provide updates that evidence their positive impact on children and young people.

The Board confirms the joint commitment to improving services and outcomes for children looked after (CLA) and care leavers for whom the Council is corporate parent. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board are drawn from Hampshire County Council's elected councillors.

### **PURPOSE**

The Corporate Parenting Board acts to assist the Council in continuing to fulfil its legal obligations and responsibilities towards children looked after (CLA) and leaving care, under the Children Act 1989 and Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

The key role for members of the Corporate Parenting Board is to listen to the voice of children and young people looked after and leaving care and ensure that their views influence service design, delivery and improvement. The Board should be able to clearly demonstrate its impact and communicate this to children and young people.

The Corporate Parenting Board acts strategically to ensure that children looked after and care leavers are effectively supported to reach their potential through the provision of excellent parenting, high quality education, opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood.

The Corporate Parenting Board has a responsibility to oversee and review the quality and effectiveness of services for CLA delivered by Corporate Parents, this includes the council, partner agencies and commissioned services, to ensure that every child and young person looked after is supported to be safe, happy, healthy and to achieve their full potential.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD**

The Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be appointed by County Council in accordance with Standing Order 6.2. There will be nine Members in the Corporate Parenting Board, in addition to Substitute Members, who shall be appointed by the County Council in accordance with Standing Order 24.

The involvement of young people from Hampshire's Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Experienced Adults Council (CEAC) is a crucial element of the Board's functioning to ensure young people who are looked after or care experienced meet directly with key decision-makers and influence the priorities, decisions and service developments. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Care Experienced Adults Council will be co-opted on to the Board and will be able to contribute to the work and impact of the Board and agree recommendations. The Chair of the Hampshire Fostering Network will also be co-opted on to the Board.

The Executive Member for Education shall have a standing invitation to attend and observe meetings of the Board.

### **ATTENDANCE AT THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD:**

The role of officers and partner agencies at the Board will be to update and complement the Board's knowledge of the priorities, service delivery and service improvements in relation to children in care and care leavers.

- **Officers:**

Officers with responsibility or strategic lead for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Participation will be standing attendees of the Board.

- **Partner agencies:**

The Chair will write to senior executives within Health, Police and District Councils on an annual basis, to remind them of their corporate parenting responsibilities and to ensure representation at all Board meetings. Partners will be invited to contribute to agenda items and respond to queries from members, which will evidence the impact that hearing the voice of children in care and care leavers is having on their organisation.

- **Other attendees:**

Other officers or representatives may be asked to attend the Board to present specific items on the agenda as agreed by the Chair and the Director of Children's Services.

### **FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

Proposed as four times per year, with a separate non-public meeting with CiCC and CEAC members that takes place in tandem with the main Board meeting and at other times as required, when agreed by the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board.

### **GOVERNANCE**

All formal meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be conducted in accordance with the County Council's Constitution, in particular with Part 3, Chapter 1 (Standing Orders) and Part 3, Chapter 4 (Public Access to Information).

## **Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board**

### **Overall Purpose:**

To advise the relevant Executive Member(s) in relation to the Council's requirement to be a Corporate Parent for children in care and care leavers; to support the overall effectiveness of the Council's corporate parenting function.

### **Membership:**

The Corporate Parenting Board shall be proportionally constituted and consist of nine members.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be appointed by County Council in accordance with Standing Order 6.2.

The Members of the Corporate Parenting Board, including Substitute Members, shall be appointed by the County Council in accordance with Standing Order 24.

### **Objectives:**

To provide holistic, member driven engagement with the key areas of the corporate parenting function. These include:

- (i) The views of children in care about the services they receive from the Council.
- (ii) Methods to raise the aspiration, ambitions and life chances of children in care and care leavers, narrowing the gap of achievement and outcomes between children in care (CIC) and their peers.
- (iii) Raising awareness amongst all elected members of their corporate parenting responsibilities as per Part 1, Chapter 2, paragraph 3.2.7 of the County Council's Constitution.
- (iv) Ensuring that all Council services are mindful of the needs of children in care and care leavers and respond accordingly within their remit.
- (v) The outcomes of Ofsted inspections as they may arise and any actions that are required to improve services to children in care and care leavers.
- (vi) The promotion of excellent and innovative practice in relation to the Corporate Parent role from which others can learn.

To pro-actively engage with forums that include and represent children in care and care leavers in Hampshire; in particular with the Hampshire Care Ambassadors, and with other relevant partners and stakeholders in pursuance of achieving positive outcomes for children in care. Such engagement may include members of the Corporate Parenting Board attending formal or informal events

involving partners and stakeholders with the objective of gaining a better understanding of the key issues. The Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Board may also extend an invitation to relevant partners and stakeholders, including representatives of the Hampshire Care Ambassadors to attend meetings of the Board to seek their view on appropriate agenda items.

**Frequency of Meetings:**

Proposed as three times per year

**Governance:**

All formal meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be conducted in accordance with the County Council's Constitution, in particular with Part 3, Chapter 1 (Standing Orders) and Part 3, Chapter 4 (Public Access to Information).