

Report

Report to:	Social Work Committee
Date of Meeting:	28 October 2020
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Meeting our Corporate Parenting Responsibilities & South Lanarkshire Council Revised Strategy
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide the Committee with an update of the review of the corporate parenting strategy governance structure.
- ♦ highlight the importance of the Committee's Corporate Parenting Responsibilities.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) the Committee's responsibilities, and continued engagement in relation to Corporate Parenting agenda for our Care Experience young people, be noted
- (2) the revised corporate parenting structure and governance be noted.

3. Background

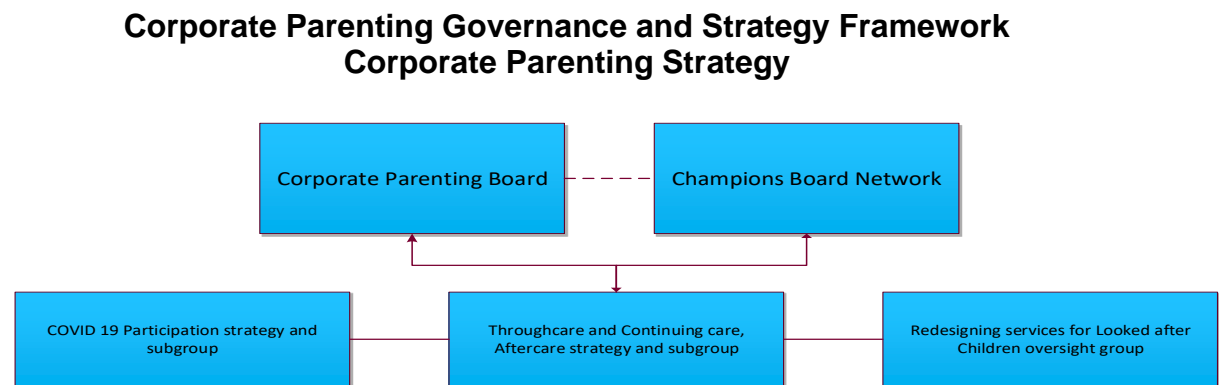
- 3.1. Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 outlines a range of legislative duties for corporate parents across Scotland. These duties aim to ensure the attention and resources of corporate parents are focused on the task of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of Scotland's looked after children and care leavers. When a child becomes looked after the Council and key partners become the **Corporate Parent**. Put simply, the term '**Corporate Parent**' means the collective responsibility of the Council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us. A good corporate parent will want the best outcomes for their looked after children, accept responsibility for them, and make their needs a priority
- 3.2. South Lanarkshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy and Plan has a 2-year cycle, the current plan (2018-2020) progress is currently being evaluated by the corporate parenting strategy group.
- 3.3. In November 2019 as part of the evaluation process, the Corporate Parenting Strategy Group started a process of review of what the future priorities should be, based on utilising our joint strategic needs assessment. This process will directly inform our 2020-2022 corporate parenting strategy and plan. The most recent joint Children's Inspection highlighted that our Corporate Parenting Strategic Group and Board did not evidence the same degree of strategic scrutiny and oversight in

relation to their Corporate Parenting responsibilities across all care groups as evidenced for child protection

- 3.4 The evaluative process highlighted that, due to the maturity of the Corporate Parenting agenda, and its significance in legalisation, we needed to undertake a review of the governance and sub-structures that support this strategy, taking account of connecting our Champions Board approach into the existing structures. In addition, our recent Children's Inspection highlighted the need for greater degree of governance in relation to our Corporate Parenting improvement agenda.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Agreed Revised Corporate Parenting governance and structure is detailed below:-



- 4.2. The proposal creates an Executive Corporate Parenting Board (representative of Senior Chief Officers across CPP) and locates the South Lanarkshire's Champions Board approach within the current structure. The strategy subgroups, which sit underneath this governance structure, would be aligned to the priority improvement areas in South Lanarkshire. The priority areas are based on improvement areas from the Inspection evaluation, including survey from young people, Champions Board pledges, and vision of the independent care review.
- 4.3. The Corporate Parenting Strategy Group have been developing a Champions Board approach, co-designed with our network of care experienced young people, supported by Who Cares? Scotland who we have commissioned to support its development. This approach will create forums and unique space for care experience young people to meet with key decision makers, service leads and elected members to influence and be a part of design and delivery of services which directly affects them.
- 4.4. South Lanarkshire launched its Champions Board approach in an evening event on the 10 December 2019. This provided an opportunity for a number of our care experienced young people to present their Champions Board approach to key partners who have corporate parenting responsibilities, and provided a benchmark on how to take the approach forward in the future.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications associated with the content of this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications associated with the content of this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability and environmental implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no other implications associated with the content of this report.
- 8.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 8.3. There are no other issues associated with this report.
- ## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy or procedure and there is no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment.
- 9.2. Consultation and engagement with children and young people will be undertaken as outlined at 4.4 and 4.5 above.

Val de Souza,
Director, Health and Social Care

20 September 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ get it right for children and young people
- ◆ support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Aine McCrae, Service Manager, Child and Family Services

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