

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 July 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Social Work Resources) Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Corporate Parenting Update
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Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise the Executive Committee of progress with the Corporate Parenting approach in South Lanarkshire.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) notes the content of this report and progress with the implementation of a Corporate Parenting approach in South Lanarkshire

3. Background

3.1. In February, 2009 a paper was presented to the Children's Services Strategy Group outlining work which would need to be undertaken to develop a common and consistent approach to Corporate Parenting across partner agencies.

3.2. This work involved several key strands and was based upon the two government reports 'Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better' and 'These are Our Bairns – A Guide for Community Planning Partnerships on Being a Good Corporate Parent'. The key actions which were identified included:

- The development of a Corporate Parenting policy
- Facilitation of a multi – agency Corporate Parenting event with the full participation and involvement of looked after young people
- Agreeing a set of actions which partners would sign up to deliver, both within their own organisations and across the children's services planning partnership

4. Progress to Date

4.1. With regard to the above actions, the following progress has been made:

- The Corporate Parenting Policy was presented to the Children's Services Strategy Group, Children's Services Steering Group and the Corporate Management Team. Implementation is well underway across partner agencies.
- Raising awareness of the collective and individual roles of agencies has been achieved through training and significantly with two very successful multi – agency Corporate Parenting events being held in June 2009 and March 2011.
- This event was led in part by young people, who used real life stories to highlight the challenges being faced by looked after children. The information and work undertaken at the first event was used to shape the second Corporate Parenting Policy, which was approved by Executive Committee in December 2009. This

policy clearly articulates the role of individuals and agencies working with looked after children and how we can work collectively to be ambitious for this group of young people.

- The Corporate Parenting Sub Group, which has lead responsibility across partner agencies for this agenda, has a clear action plan which also included the issues raised within the most recent seminar.
- All agency staff have had access to training as a core component of the multi – agency training calendar and there are three trained facilitators
- Specific training for elected members was delivered on 9 May 2011, with a fully updated brief being made available
- A self-evaluation, in line with the national framework, has been undertaken and has also been used to update the Corporate Parenting Action Plan
- The Young Voice Group, which is a vibrant advocacy and consultation group of looked after children and care leavers, is fully involved in terms of participation and development of policy, practice and the services for looked after children.
- Who Cares? Scotland led a members seminar on 9 May 2011

5. Next Steps and Recommendations

- 5.1. The full implementation of the Corporate Parenting Policy and the continuous monitoring, review and development of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan.
- 5.2. The Corporate Parenting Sub Group will provide an annual report to the Corporate Parenting partners.
- 5.3. Continue to broaden and maintain high membership and support for the Young Voice Group

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None at this time

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There were costs associated with the publication and dissemination of the policy and associated developments with regard to training support for staff. This was funded through ring – fenced joint training monies and has become a core part of the joint training calendar. Future costs can be met within existing budgets.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The aim of the corporate parenting strategy is to promote and ensure ownership of the agenda across all resources and partners and there is a risk that if this approach is not taken the service is delivered in an unstructured and inconsistent way.

There are no significant issues in terms of sustainability in relation to this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. Appropriate consultation has been carried out.

Harry Stevenson
Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

13 May 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Improving the lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Raise educational attainment for all
- Improve health and increase physical activity
- Improve community safety

Previous References

Executive Committee

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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