

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	13 Sept 2012
TITLE:	Corporate Parenting Strategy
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2012 Bath and North East Somerset Pledge to Children and Young People in and Moving on from Care	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 Council is invited to consider, comment on and support the Council's draft Corporate Parenting Strategy before it is taken to cabinet for decision.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to:

2.1 Consider and comment on the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy

2.2 Reaffirm the full Council's commitment to Corporate Parenting and its Pledge to Children and Young People in and Moving on from Care.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. However the Council has significant resources allocated to looking after children and young people in care and care leavers. These include:

- Children in care placement budgets £4,739,000
- Adoption and special guardianship support £222,000
- Support for care leavers £363,000
- Family Placement Team (fostering and adoption services) £617,000
- Children in Care & Moving on Team (social work and support services to children in care and care leavers) £835,000.

3.2 The budgets listed above are those directly and exclusively dedicated to children in care. Children in care also receive social work services from the Children and Family Assessment and Intervention Teams, Disabled Children's Team, through services commissioned from Sirona Health and Care, Oxford Health and other services commissioned by or working in partnership with the Council.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- *Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The Council has statutory duties under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and other legislation to children in need in its community, including duties to look after children who need to come into care and act as a good parent to them. The Council's duties to children in care are defined as 'corporate parenting'.

5.2 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is intended to set out in one place and separate from other strategies the Council's strategic plans for Corporate Parenting. This strategy is linked to other strategies and should be seen in the context of the Children and Young People's Plan which sets out the Council's vision and strategy for all children, particularly vulnerable children of whom children in care are one group.

5.3 An early draft of this strategy was shared with OFSTED inspectors during the course of the inspection of services for safeguarding and children in care in January 2012. The draft strategy has been informed by the outcomes of that inspection, and discussed by elected members at the Corporate Parenting Group, young people at the In Care Council, key partners through the Children in Care Quality Assurance and Strategy Group, staff across children's social care and the Children's Leadership Team.

5.4 The over-arching aim of the Strategy should be seen as delivering on the Council's pledge to children in care which was first adopted by the Council in 2008. The success of the strategy will be measured through delivery of the pledge together with key outcomes including participation of care leavers in education employment and training and children in care achieving educational progress at

least at the same rate as their peers. There are a range of measures reported nationally and locally in addition to these, including the Government's Adoption Scorecard, which will be used to measure progress on the strategy.

5.5 Agreeing the strategy formally is a decision for Cabinet, however as corporate parenting is a responsibility of the whole Council the strategy is being put before the full Council for consideration and comment before being taken to Cabinet.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 A fresh Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed as one was completed on the Care Matters Implementation Plan which included the previous Corporate Parenting Strategy and the issues for this Strategy have not changed.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 *Cabinet Member; Staff; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*

8.2 An early draft of the Strategy has been shared with Members at the Corporate Parenting Group including the Cabinet Member, social care staff, key partners and the In Care Council and comments sought from these groups. Copies of this report and the draft Strategy have been shared with the relevant officers.

9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

9.1 *Social Inclusion; Young People*

10 ADVICE SOUGHT

10.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Background	

papers	
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