

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	14th November 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2463
TITLE:	Corporate Parenting Strategy	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2012 - 2015		
Bath and North East Somerset Pledge to Children and Young People in and Moving on from Care		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 Cabinet is invited to approve the Council's draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2012-2015.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to:

2.1 Approve the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy

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 The draft strategy was considered by full Council on 13th September 2012. Council unanimously endorsed the draft strategy and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to Corporate Parenting and its pledge to Children and Young People in and Moving on from care. The final draft strategy attached has taken into account comments made at full Council and includes more specific targets in a number of key areas.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

c) 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 RATIONALE

- 8.1 There is no statutory requirement to have a Corporate Parenting Strategy. However, given the importance of the Council's Corporate Parenting function and the fact that there is otherwise no single document that sets out clearly in one place and separate from other strategies the Council's strategy for Corporate Parenting, it is considered highly desirable to adopt such a strategy.
- 8.2 The strategy has a wide potential audience including children and young people, families, carers, Council staff, partner services and agencies, Government departments and agencies including OFSTED and other bodies.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 *Cabinet members; Staff; Service Users; Local Residents; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*
- 10.2 An early draft of the Strategy was 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. The draft strategy was considered and endorsed by full Council.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 11.1 *Social Inclusion; Young People*

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 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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Sponsoring Cabinet Member	<i>Councillor Dine Romero, Cabinet member for Children, Early Years and Youth.</i>
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	