

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION MAKER:	COUNCIL
DATE:	16 OCTOBER 2013
SUBJECT:	CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL – CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE
REPORT FROM:	LEADER
CONTACT OFFICER:	JAYNE HAMMOND – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>This report presents for approval draft revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel, which it is proposed should be known in future as the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>The report also presents for information Bury's Corporate Parenting Strategy and Delivery Plan.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Council is asked to approve the draft Terms of Reference and change of title for the Corporate Parenting Board, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>Council is asked to note Bury's Corporate Parenting Strategy and Delivery Plan.</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	There are no implications arising from this report
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	
Equality/Diversity implications:	None in respect of this report
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes. The proposed Terms of Reference are designed to support the Strategy in enabling the Council to meet its duty and responsibilities as Corporate Parent, to children and young people in care and care leavers in the Borough.
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
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Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
		16.10.2013	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 All councillors have a statutory duty (Corporate Parent) to children in our care and to care leavers. The proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel, which it is recommended should in future be referred to as the Corporate Parenting Board, are designed to sit alongside the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This will provide a robust platform supporting councillors, senior leaders, senior managers and Council officers to fulfil their statutory duties to Looked After Children and Care Leavers; and improve outcomes for this vulnerable cohort of children and young people.
- 1.2 The revised Terms of Reference are aimed at supporting the Board in having an increased role in scrutiny and challenge. This is reflected in Section 5, "Membership," which increases the number of elected members from 6 to 10 and in Section 6, "Operational Arrangements," which stipulates that the Cabinet Member for Children and Families will not be eligible for appointment to the position of Chair.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 18 September 2013, Cabinet approved for adoption the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Delivery Plan.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 The implications of the Corporate Parenting Revised Terms of Reference and Strategy include:
- Increased expectation of external and internal partners to prioritise and improve the impact and effectiveness of their services for 'Looked After Children' and Care Leavers.
 - Increased expectation of Business Support functions in Children's Services (Social Care) in delivering performance information for scrutiny. The Leader will be required to nominate a chair for the Board for the remainder of the Council year. The Lead Member will take on the role of a participating observer.
- 2.2 The Council and its partners will be inspected with regard to how it fulfils its functions as Corporate Parent.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve the draft Terms of Reference for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.
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List of Background Papers:-

None

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