

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 17th January 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director, Social Care and Early Help

PORTFOLIO: Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Corporate Parenting

WARD(S) Boroughwide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the role it plays in supporting and delivering on their part of Halton's corporate parenting responsibilities and delivering on the 7 key principles as laid out in guidance that sets out how the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB), can deliver on the robust assurance of how the wellbeing partnership dovetails in to the corporate parenting system, ensures children Halton receive outstanding corporate parenting; and that all looked after children and care leavers can achieve their potential.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board:

- 1) **Adopts the principles of the corporate parenting strategy and the defining of the seven key priorities, to support the improvement journey of Halton care experienced young people and care leavers;**
- 2) **Ensure senior management representation across the place within Halton and affirm the corporate commitment to develop stronger partnership working to ensure the needs of care experienced young people and care leavers are galvanised and prioritised by all stakeholders, ensuring 'our children are our future.'**
- 3) **The Board of cross-party members, senior managers, and key stakeholders, to meet bi-monthly, receiving reports, including performance reports, undertaking strategic and thematic enquiry into specific elements of the strategy, and seeking ways of resolving barriers to support the success of our people place and practice.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The report is supported by a detailed presentation setting out the corporate parenting principles and the below wider statutory

guidance.

3.2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-corporate-parenting-principles-to-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers>

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There may need to be changes to local policy and procedure if the statutory guidance has not been set in policy to adopt the seven key principles.

4.2 Training and sharing of the implications of changes to systems and process may require reviewing.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 If the place has not adopted the share of corporate responsibility this may impact financially on service delivery and provision where we are failing to address need in this cohort of our place.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

In adopting the principles and focussing the delivery of the corporate parenting strategy Halton is ensuring the care experienced of the region are in receipt of the correct service at the correct time and not negating on the protective characteristics that are in place for the protection of children and young people.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The presentation emphasises the notion of improving outcomes for the children of Halton and supporting their contribution to becoming the citizens of the future therefore working to improve better outcomes.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The adopting of the corporate principles and the refreshed corporate strategy enables the starting well, living well and aging well agenda to be achieved in its commitment to care experienced and care leavers and their wider vulnerabilities as a result of added ACE.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The presentation works to supporting the wider agenda of a safer and sustainable community where we each are engaged in the protection and promotion of the needs of the community to form One Halton.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The supporting of place and the need for a greener and healthier environment for children and families to grow up in supports the wider ambition of the presentation in meeting the corporate duties.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 In failing to adopt the principles we are at risk of not being compliant with regulatory and statutory duties and preventing the needs of care experience and care leavers from being the corporate parenting priority.

7.2 The risk of not adopting these principles is a failure to comply with statutory duties.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Halton has a commitment to deliver to promote equality and diversity and ensure good and effective corporate parenting for children and young people looked after by the local authority, as well as those young people leaving local authority care. The primary aim the adopting of the Corporate Parenting principles and Strategy is to ensure that appropriate services are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of all looked after children and care leavers and enable this group of children and young people to make positive choices and achieve the best possible outcomes during their time in care and into adulthood.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no implications on climate change on this proposal.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.