

Education and Vulnerable Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Parenting Update

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What is Corporate Parenting?

- The Statutory definition - As the corporate parent of children in care the State has a special responsibility for their wellbeing. Like any good parent, it should put its own children first. That means being a powerful advocate for them to receive the best of everything and helping children to make a success of their lives
- Having the same aspirations and commitment to children and young people in care as any good parent would have for their own children

Good Corporate Parenting delivers...

- Children in Care and Care Leavers are effectively supported to reach their potential through the provision of excellent parenting, high quality education, opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood.
- Good quality outcomes – narrow the gap
- Good quality and real opportunities

Birmingham's Vision for Children in Care

- Birmingham's vision is that corporate parents will have the same aspirations and commitment to children and young people in care as any good parent would have for their own children. Birmingham is a big city with big challenges but this also provides big opportunities. Support and services provided should always make a positive difference every day to children and young people's lives.
- Children & Young People – proud of their City.
- Big city, big challenge, big opportunity

Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) - what it does

- The (CPB) acts strategically
- Considers issues for children and young people in Care.
- Champions how these issues can be addressed.
- Overview of CiC data – from which issues can be identified e.g. educational attainment
- Overview of how services are working with CiC through reports from the subgroups and the Director of Children's Services
- Engagement with Children and Young People

....previously

- Operational board
- A business meeting
- Agenda – broad – micro-operational through to big strategic decisions
- Sub group - limited focus – currently care leavers
- Data – not used effectively
- Elected members - Champions – with undefined role
- Board is not making requests of the sub-group
- Limited communication between the board and officers
- No consequences if work is not done
- Board not making decisions

What we have done

- New Board
- New Strategy
- New focused working group
- Corporate parenting champions group
- New TOR and role definition
- Working on links with scrutiny
- Working on gaining commitments
- Concentration on added value
- <http://inline/corporateparenting>

Elected members

Local Government Association “We can’t put enough emphasis on the role of elected members to ensure the Council acts as an effective Corporate Parent”

To be able to do this:

- Be supported to understand the Care system
- Have clear briefings on performance, compliance and quality
- Have the opportunity to listen to children and young people’s voice and the voice of those caring for the City’s Looked After Children
- Be supported to understand the application of threshold and risks