

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JUNE 2014

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES**

NOMINATION OF A CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION

1. Purpose of the Report.

- 1.1 To request the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 19 February 2014 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the ‘corporate parent’ therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.¹
- 3.2 In order to further develop and enhance the Council’s corporate parenting role with its partners, a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008.
- 3.3 The inaugural meeting of the Cabinet Committee was held on 27 November 2008. It has been agreed that the Cabinet Committee will meet bi-monthly. The terms of reference for the Cabinet Committee are:

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association ‘*If this were my child... A councillor’s guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers*’, June 2009

- to ensure that looked after children are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership;
- to seek the views of children and young people in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive;
- to ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place;
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Government guidance.

3.4 At its inaugural meeting, the Cabinet Committee requested that a Corporate Parenting "Champion" be nominated from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to become permanent invitees to the Cabinet Committee.

3.5 At its meeting on 27 May 2014, Cabinet agreed that the Chairperson of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed as an invitee to the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting, in addition to the Corporate Parenting Champion.

4. Current Situation / Proposal.

4.1 The Committee is requested to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting.

4.2 The role of the Scrutiny Champion is to represent their Overview and Scrutiny Committee, partaking in discussions with Cabinet over items relating to children in care and care leavers.

4.3 In this role, it is also suggested that Champions provide six monthly updates to their Committees to ensure that Members are informed of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

4.4 It is also proposed that Members consider how the services within the remit of their Committee affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee therefore assist in these areas.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

5.1 The work of the Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendation.

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Nominate one Member of the Committee as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting;
- ii. Note the appointment of the Chairperson of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an additional invitee.

P A Jolley,
Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Regulatory Services
1 June 2012

Contact Officer: Rachel Harries, Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: 01656 643696

Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background Documents

Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution

Part II of the Local Government Act 2000: Executive Arrangements

Report of the Corporate Director – Children to Cabinet, 4 November 2008: Establishment of a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee

Report of the Corporate Director – Children to the Inaugural Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee, 27 November 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate Development & Partnerships to
Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 30 January 2009