

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 JANUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Committee to nominate a replacement Member to Councillor C Webster as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee, due to Councillor Webster no longer being a member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2018-2022 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 22 February 2018 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2018 and 2022. 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 where it was agreed that the Cabinet Committee will meet 4 to 6 times in a calendar year. 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 the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 June 2019, Councillor C Webster was nominated as the Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

4.1 At a meeting of Council on 23 October 2019 certain changes were agreed to the membership of Committees affecting the Conservative Group and these changes, included Councillor C Webster being replaced on the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Councillor K Rowlands.

4.2 In view of the above, the Committee is now requested to nominate a replacement Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

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

4.4 It is also suggested that in this role each Champion considers how all services within the remit of Scrutiny affect children in care and care leavers and encourage their own Committee to bear their Corporate Parenting role in mind when participating in Scrutiny.

4.5 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The work of the Corporate 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 wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long Term – The establishment of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee demonstrates the Authorities long term commitment to improving and strengthening their role as Corporate Parents to care leavers and Looked After Children.
- Prevention – The Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee are preventative in their nature and ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place for all care leavers and Looked After Children
- Integration – This report supports all the well-being objectives
- Collaboration – All members are Corporate Parents and this report supports collaborative working with Cabinet and Members of Scrutiny and emphasises the role of Corporate Parents for all Elected Members.
- Involvement – Corporate Parent Champions provide practical support and guidance to children in care and care leavers to ensure they achieve their well-being goals

8. Financial Implications

8.1 None.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That the Committee is requested to nominate a replacement Member to Councillor C Webster as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

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Background Documents:

None