

Meeting of:	COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	14 JULY 2025
Report Title:	CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES, HR & CORPORATE POLICY
Responsible Officer:	MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER – SCRUTINY
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and monitoring of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's 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. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution to be updated.
Executive Summary:	Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards care experienced 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 care experienced children and young people in Bridgend. In order to further develop and enhance the Council's Corporate Parenting role with its partners, a Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008. The Committee is being asked to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

2. Background

- 2.1 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards care experienced 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 care experienced children and young people in Bridgend.
- 2.2 In order to further develop and enhance the Council's Corporate Parenting role with its partners, a Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008.
- 2.3 The inaugural meeting of the Cabinet Committee was held on 27 November 2008 where it was agreed that the Cabinet Committee will meet quarterly. The terms of reference for the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting are:
 - to ensure that care experienced children and young people 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.
- 2.4 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 invitees to the Cabinet Committee.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The role of the Corporate Parenting Champion is to represent their Overview and Scrutiny Committee, partaking in discussions with Cabinet over items relating to care experienced children and young people.
- 3.3 It is also suggested that in this role each Champion considers how all services within the remit of Scrutiny affect care experienced children and young people and encourage their own Committee to bear their Corporate Parenting role in mind when participating in Scrutiny.

- 3.4 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.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The Protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 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 Authority's long-term commitment to improving and strengthening their role as Corporate Parents to care experienced children and young people.
 - 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 experienced children and young people.
 - 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 care experienced children and young people to ensure they achieve their well-being goals.
- 5.2 Nomination of a Corporate Parenting Champion assists in the achievement of the following of the Council's 4 Wellbeing Objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

3. Enabling people to meet their potential

Provide an effective Childcare and Early Years Offer, provide safe, supportive schools with high quality teaching, provide Welsh medium education opportunities,

be good parents to our care experienced children and help people get the skills they need for work.

4.Supporting our most vulnerable

Providing high-quality children's and adults social services and early help services, supporting people in poverty, supporting people facing homelessness to find a place to live, supporting children with additional learning needs and safeguard and protect people who are at risk of harm.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no Climate Change or Nature Implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting addresses any impact on children or young people within the care of the Authority, under the Council's responsibility as a Corporate Parent. Safeguarding is everyone's business and means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

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

Background documents

None.