

**Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance & Communications,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on Tuesday 19th July 2016**

**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's (BMBC) Corporate Parenting Panel
Annual Report 2015-16 – Cover Report**

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The attached report 'Item 4b' is an annual update of the work of the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP). The role of the CPP is to ensure that BMBC, through its elected members, officers, carers and partner agencies fulfils its corporate parenting role. This means providing commitment and leadership to 'being there' for children in care and care leavers as well as monitoring performance in terms of improving outcomes.
- 1.2 ALL Elected Members have a responsibility as Corporate Parents to ensure that all children at the edge of care, in care or who have left care are given opportunity to reach the best possible outcome they can. They should act as 'pushy parents', with the litmus test being "Would this be good enough for my child or me if I was a child?"
- 1.3 As a result of Corporate Parenting responsibilities, it was agreed at the OSC meeting on 10th February 2015 that the CPP Annual Report should be brought to the OSC on an annual basis, enabling challenge to be provided by Members who are not directly involved with the CPP.
- 1.4 National data shows that children who are in care are one of the lowest performing groups in terms of educational outcomes. They also have poorer employment prospects and health outcomes than the general population. Research indicates that there are a number of factors which need to be considered to maximise positive outcomes for children in care, some of which include placement stability, interventions being tailored to the characteristics and experiences of the individual and the need for professionals to have a good understanding of children's social, emotional, mental health and educational needs.
- 1.5 It is therefore essential that the quality of services for our children and young people at the edge of care, in care or who have left care, are monitored and challenged. The attached Annual Report outlines the work of the CPP during 2015-16 (Item 4b) including:
- The responsibilities and statutory duties of the Council to protect children
 - The role and responsibilities of Councillors as Corporate Parents

- Corporate Parenting in Barnsley including Progress and areas covered by the CPP during 2015-16
- Governance arrangements
- Children in Care Council
- Priorities for the CPP during 2016-17
- Performance information

2.0 Invited witnesses

2.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting:

- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Sharon Galvin, Designated Nurse-Safeguarding Children, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Councillor Joe Unsworth, Corporate Parenting Panel Member
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding)
- Andrea Wake, Children's Participation Officer
- Care4Us Council Representatives
- Barnsley Foster Carers

3.0 Possible areas for discussion

3.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What impact has the CPP had on the outcomes for our children in care? How is this evidenced?
- To what extent is the voice of our children in care reflected in the design and improvement of services? What do they think to the services they receive?
- Are all key stakeholders represented on the board and engaged in its work?
- What is done to ensure that Barnsley children in care placed out of the area receive high quality services?
- How are the views of carers incorporated into the work of the CPP to help improve services?
- How confident are you that the right decisions are being made to safeguard children at the right time?
- What are the key challenges for the services and the CPP for 2016/17?

- How can Members not involved directly in the meetings support the work of the CPP and our children in care?

4.0 Background Papers and Links

- Copy 4b (attached) – Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2015-16
- Child Protection in England: Legislation, Policy and Guidance:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/england/legislation-policy-guidance/>
- Children in Care in England Statistics, House of Commons Library (5th October 2015):
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN04470/SN04470.pdf>

5.0 Glossary

CPP – Corporate Parenting Panel

DfE – Department for Education

Ofsted – Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

OSC – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.0 Officer Contact

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