

Meeting: Cabinet

24 August 2021

Report Title: Corporate Parenting Strategy

Wards Affected: All

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Corporate Parenting Strategy, so that the Council has an improved Strategy as an interim position, pending the outcome of work that is currently being undertaken with children and young people so as to inform an ultimate Strategy for consideration.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver this ambition by ensuring that as Corporate Parents, the Council provides the very best for our cared for and care experienced young people.
- 2.2 The Children and Young People's Plan sets out Torbay Council's objectives and priorities for all services which directly affect children and young people across all the communities which make up Torbay. Its overriding objective is to ensure that all children, young people and care experienced young people and adults are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential. In the context of Corporate Parenting this objective can be re-stated so as to ensure

that our cared for children and care experienced young people are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential; and have all the opportunities that good parents afford their children.

- 2.3 The reasons for the decision are due to the fact that our current Corporate Parenting Strategy is out of date, having expired last year. In considering the tone of the previous strategy it is evident just how far the Council has travelled in its journey to a model of restorative practice and ensuring that our children are at the heart of everything we do as a Council. We recognise that it is imperative that our cared for and care experienced young people are a part of developing a final version of the Strategy, and that work is currently underway. However in the interim it is imperative that the Council has a Strategy that is current and is reflective of our approach as a Council.
- 2.4 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is not a Policy Framework document within our constitution currently, and therefore it is approved by the Cabinet. In our approach to ensuring that Corporate Parenting is fully understood and enacted across all Members and Officers, it is proposed that Cabinet makes a recommendation to Full Council that the Corporate Parenting Strategy be a Policy Framework document.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That Cabinet approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy,
- (ii) That Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the Corporate Parenting Strategy become a Policy Framework document,
- (iii) That following engagement with children and young people a further updated Corporate Parenting Strategy be prepared for consideration by Council.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Strategy

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The current Corporate Parenting Strategy is out of date having expired last year. Work is underway within the service to produce a Corporate Parenting Strategy which is informed by the views of our cared for and care experienced young people, however whilst that work is progressing it is important that the current strategy is updated. If one considers the tone of the previous strategy it is evident just how far the Council has travelled in its journey to a model of restorative practice and ensuring that our children are at the heart of everything we do as a Council, and it is important that we have a current strategy that reflects this.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 The current Corporate Parenting Strategy expired at the end of 2020. Whilst it is not a legal requirement to have the same, it is an essential element of Leadership, Management and Governance within Children's Services, and therefore doing nothing is not an option.

The 2018-2020 Strategy could have been extended, however in respect of the tone of the same, it does not align with the Council's restorative practice approach and therefore this is not recommended.

Rather than approving this Strategy the Council could await the outcome of the work that is currently being undertaken with our cared for children and care experienced young people. However given it is out of date and the tone does not align with current practice this is not recommended.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications of this Strategy. There are existing financial implications of the Council fulfilling its role as Corporate Parent, and these will continue under this Strategy.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications of this Strategy. There are existing legal responsibilities to those cared for and those who are care experienced, and these will continue under this Strategy.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 As has already been set out, work is progressing with our children and young people to ultimately inform our Corporate Parenting Strategy. This Strategy has been prepared to ensure that an approved Strategy is in place pending the outcome of that work. Therefore the extent of engagement with young people on this version has been limited to the views of a small number of young people that have reviewed the same with the Head of Service.

5.2 Engagement has been undertaken with the Quartet, Corporate Parenting Board and a group of Foster Carers and the version for consideration includes revisions based upon the outcome of this engagement.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

6.1 Not applicable

7. Tackling Climate Change

7.1 This Strategy will not directly relate to tackling climate change.

8. Associated Risks

8.1 If this Strategy is not approved the Council could face criticism as to the existing Strategy being out of date and not in line with our current approach.

Equality Impacts

| 9. | Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Positive Impact | Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions | Neutral Impact |
| Older or younger people | The strategy will have a positive impact on young people. It sets out clearly the Council's vision for Corporate Parenting and provides a governance structure to ensure it is delivered. | | |
| People with caring Responsibilities | | | No differential impact |
| People with a disability | | | No differential impact |
| Women or men | | | No differential impact |
| People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i> | | | No differential impact |
| Religion or belief (including lack of belief) | | | No differential impact |
| People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual | | | No differential impact |
| People who are transgendered | | | No differential impact |

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | People who are in a marriage or civil partnership | | | No differential impact |
| | Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave | | | No differential impact |
| | Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation) | By being good Corporate Parents, we will provide our children and young people with the best start in life which could have consequential beneficial socio-economic impacts for them. | | |
| | Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay) | | | No differential impact. |
| 10.. | Cumulative Council Impact (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above) | No cumulative council impact | | |
| 11. | Cumulative Community Impacts (proposed changes within the wider community (inc the public sector) which might worsen the impacts identified above) | No cumulative community impact | | |