

**Corporate Parenting Strategy – Report of the Children and Young People’s
Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board**

Report to Cabinet on 21 March 2023

Background

1. The Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 30 January 2023 to consider revised draft Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Law, and the Director of Children’s Services, Nancy Meehan, presented the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy which had been updated having regards to the views of children and young people and their foster families and reflected the kind of Corporate Parents they needed us to be to enable us to respond to the needs of young people. They responded to the following questions:
 - How many care experienced young people were worked with on the Strategy.
 - The Strategy referred to partnership working, who were the partners involved.
 - The forward just includes photos of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, this should be the whole of the Corporate Parenting Board to demonstrate that it was their collective responsibility.
 - There were no mention of accommodation needs or housing.
 - Do you monitor your young people who were not in accommodation.
 - P12 refers to The Cycle and My Voice being participation groups currently facilitated by Torbay Youth Trust this had moved back inhouse to Torbay Council.
2. The Sub-Board reflected and debated the information provided to them, both in writing and orally and formed the following recommendation to the Cabinet. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried unanimously.

That the Cabinet be recommended to approve the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy as set out in the submitted report subject to the following:

1. amend paragraph 1.2 to read ‘wider partnership’;
2. to include photos and membership of the whole of the Corporate Parenting Board and not just the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children’s Services in the forward to show that this was their collective responsibility;

3. to include reference to the housing needs for care experienced young people and reference to the Torbay's Housing Crisis Review recommendations set out below:
 - to consider paying private landlords more than the standard one month deposit (normally the equivalent to one month's rent) to encourage them to rent properties to care experienced young people to give them more confidence they will not be left out of pocket once the young person has moved on;
 - to request that provision of new accommodation for care experienced young people should be a priority for TorVista Homes and other registered housing providers;
 - to explore options to enable more care experienced young people to remain longer term with their foster carers;
 - to explore options for Banding in Devon Home Choice to see if care experienced young people can be given a higher priority and what processes are in place; and
 - to request that officers look at good practice from other local authorities when refreshing the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to see how we can encourage the development of more larger family homes, single units, units for care experienced young people or units to assist adults with a disability to live independently; and
4. page 12 of the Strategy to be amended to reflect that The Circle and My Voice participation groups are no longer facilitated by Torbay Youth Trust and have been brought back inhouse.