

Meeting: Cabinet **Date:** 15th August 2023

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25

When does the decision need to be implemented? For information.

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our aspirations as to the kind of corporate parent Torbay wants to be and how the local authority will work alongside our partners, including education, police and health services, to achieve this ambition. This requires everyone, from officers to elected Members to GPs to teachers, not only recognising their role as corporate parents but also understanding how they can support us to be the best possible corporate parents we can be.

- 1.2 This Strategy outlines the commitment of our Partnership to these objectives, and achieving our ambitions through strong strategic, corporate and political leadership and meaningful performance management, a commitment to the ongoing engagement and involvement of children and young people in the development and implementation of our strategy and associated action plans and effective working together with our partners across Torbay. The priorities set out within this strategy reflect not only the local and national priorities for cared for children and care experienced young people, but also the priorities which have emerged as part of our engagement and consultation with children and young people; those priorities are underpinned by elected Member support through the Corporate Parenting Strand Leads with the Corporate Parenting Board governance structure. The Strategy also demonstrates how we are held accountable for the delivery of our corporate parenting principles and priorities, which are driven by underlying action plans.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 Torbay's vision is one whereby its people are able to thrive. As outlined within this Corporate Parenting Strategy, we want our cared for and care experienced young people to be safe, happy and healthy, in order that they can reach their full potential, and as corporate parents, we wish to give our cared for and care experienced children and young people the access to all of the opportunities that good parents afford their children. This Strategy outlines how the local authority and the partnership can achieve this vision.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That Cabinet recommends to Council:

That the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25 be approved.

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25 outlines Torbay's corporate parenting vision, an introduction to the importance of corporate parenting, the legal context of Torbay's corporate parenting responsibilities, Torbay's key principles and priorities and our subsequent pledges to cared for and care experienced children and young people, the governance associated with corporate parenting and also a reminder to children and young people about the mechanism through which they can continue to talk to and feedback to us.
- 1.2 As per the Children and Young People's Plan, Torbay aims to ensure that all our cared for children and care experienced young people and adults are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential. This Strategy outlines Torbay's commitment to being an effective, caring and ambitious corporate parent and how we will demonstrate this in conjunction with our partners.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 No options have been considered as this proposal is for information only.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25 does not make recommendations in terms of any changes to the current service or staffing structure and therefore the decision to endorse does not carry with it any financial implications.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the legislative responsibility for local authorities in respect of their corporate parenting duties is outlined. In February 2019, the Department for Education published Statutory Guidance for local authorities and outlined the key principles of Corporate Parenting. In addition, under the Children Act 2004, it was highlighted that local authorities have a duty to promote co-operation between their relevant partners and the Act also highlights that corporate parenting is a task which should be shared Council-wide and across the partnership. Following the interim Corporate Parenting Strategy published in June 2021, we have consulted with cared for children, care experienced young people and fostering families in respect of this updated Strategy.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 A priority of Children's Services has been to enhance and develop the opportunities for participation, engagement and consultation for our cared for and care experienced children and young people. It has been particularly important in the updating of this Strategy that we have spoken to children and young people, as well as their parents and carers, about the type of corporate parent that they need us to be.
- 5.2 In updating this Strategy, we have drawn upon a wide range of feedback sources. This has included but is not limited to: feedback from cared for children as part of the Your Life in Care survey undertaken in July 2021; feedback from care experienced young people as part of the Your Life Beyond Care survey undertaken in April 2021; specific consultation sessions undertaken by the Participation Officer, the Divisional Director of Safeguarding, the Divisional Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Children's Services; the views of care experienced representatives as individual contributors to both Children's Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Corporate Parenting Board; feedback through the Circle and My Voice groups; and feedback through other surveys undertaken as part of a rolling schedule of ongoing consultation with our fostering families.
- 5.3 The Strategy has been subject to a further period of public consultation. In addition, recommendations from Children's Overview and Scrutiny have been reflected within the updated Strategy.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 The decision to endorse this Strategy does not involve the procurement of services, the provision of services together with the purchase or hire of goods or the carrying out of works.

7. Tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 None.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 Should this Strategy not be endorsed, the existing interim Corporate Parenting Strategy will remain in place; there will no change in terms of the fundamental function of the service however the Strategy would not be published, and could not be transparently shared with our cared for children and care experience young people, and the wider community.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	This Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines Torbay's aspirations in respect of its corporate parenting functions, affecting all cared for and care experienced children and young people by outlining Torbay's pledge to them.	N/A	N/A
People with caring Responsibilities	This Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines Torbay's aspirations in respect of its corporate parenting functions. The principles within it are reflected in our Fostering Family Charter, and how Torbay as corporate parents interact with our fostering families and work with them to meet our cared for children and care experienced young people's needs.	N/A	N/A
People with a disability	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.
Women or men	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.

Religion or belief (including lack of belief)	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.
People who are transgendered	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	N/A	N/A	There is no differential impact.
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	The ambition of the Corporate Parenting Strategy is to ensure that all Torbay cared for children and care experienced young people, no matter their level of need or their socio-economic status, are supported to achieve their full potential.	N/A	N/A
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	By committing to this Strategy, Torbay will be committing to the supporting all of our cared for children and care experienced young people in order to meet their needs, and to achieve their best outcomes; by doing this, we will have a significant, positive impact on the longer term health outcomes for cared for children and care experienced young people.	N/A	N/A

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 None.