

SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING

22nd September 2014

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

1. **Purpose of Report**

To obtain approval for the updated Corporate Parenting Strategy.

2. **Background**

The Corporate Parenting Strategy (see Appendix 1) describes the role of the Council as a corporate parent, its responsibilities of individuals and explains to Looked After Children (LAC) what they can expect from the Council.

The aim of the Strategy is to ensure everyone who works in the Council has to help in any way they can. The Corporate Parenting Panel, consisting of a group of Councillors and key officers meet regularly and ensure the Strategy is working.

The key themes include:

- Health;
- Leisure, Socialising and Hobbies;
- Employment, Training, College and University;
- Staying Put and Moving On;

The Strategy will ensure children and young people feel confident and are encouraged to express themselves.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. It is essential that Members read the Equality Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.

3. **Recommendation**

Having given due regard to the EIA it is recommended that the updated Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved and referred to full Council to be endorsed.

4. **Reason for proposed decision**

To continue implementing the recommendations from CSSIW Inspection Reports and to provide strategic direction for the Children's Services Improvement Programme.

5. **List of Background Papers**

Corporate Parenting Strategy – Appendix 1;
Equality Impact Assessment – Appendix 2.

6. **Wards Affected**

All

7. **Officer Contact**

Nick Jarman, Director of Social Services, Health & Housing

E-mail: n.jarman@npt.gov.uk

Tel. No.: 01639 763279

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

a) Implementation of Decision

The proposed decision is for implementation after the 3 day call in period.

b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts	-	positive
Economic Prosperity	-	no impact
Education & Lifelong Learning	-	positive
Better Health and Wellbeing	-	positive
Environment & Transport	-	no impact
Crime & Disorder	-	positive

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	-	positive
Sustainable Development	-	positive
Equalities	-	positive
Social Inclusion	-	positive

c) Consultation

This item has been subject to extensive external consultation.



Safer, Brighter Futures
better outcomes for children and young people

Appendix 1

Neath Port Talbot Council

**Corporate
Parenting
Strategy**



Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot
County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Corporate Parenting

Who are Corporate Parents?



Everyone who works for the Council is a Corporate Parent to children and young people who are in care.

This is not just people you see every day such as Foster Carers, Residential Workers, teachers and Social Workers. Corporate Parents are also people who you may never see who work for the Council.

This includes Councillors (Elected Members) and all the big bosses who make important decisions about Neath Port Talbot.

But what is Corporate Parenting?

When children are in the care of Neath Port Talbot Council, the Government says that all the people who work for the Council, must look after you, and care for you as well as they would care for their own children. This means they must:

- Give you a safe and comfortable home and help you to feel part of the local community;
- Make sure you go to school, which suits your needs, if you are of school age, make friends and help you to do the best you can;
- Make sure you are safe, happy and supported;
- Listen to you and make sure you know how and where to complain if you are not happy;
- Have a good understanding of what makes you happy, the things which make you anxious or even frightened;
- Making sure that you don't feel that you are different or being picked on or picked out;
- Help you get ready to live as an adult, with all the knowledge, skills and support you will need.



Corporate Parenting is being a good parent to children and young people in care, so they grow up happy and are able to make a success of their life.

Aim of the Strategy

What does this Strategy mean?



This Strategy hopes to spread the word around the Council that everyone who works there has to help in any way they can.

All the different laws and guidance from the Government are written in the Strategy to help Corporate Parents understand what they have to do for you.

Whatever you want from life, we want to help you reach your goals.

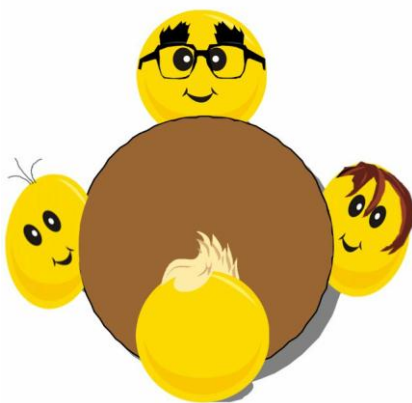
What Difference will it make to me?

The Strategy will bring together different departments of the Council and the Health Authority and other people and organisations who work with you.



Together, they can make changes in the system or improve services so that the needs and wishes of children and young people in Neath Port Talbot are listened to and acted on.

How will we make sure that the Corporate Parents keep working hard to make things better for us?



The Corporate Parenting Panel (a group of Councillors and key Officers) meet regularly and will make sure that the Strategy is working. People from across the Council including Education and Health are 'on board'.

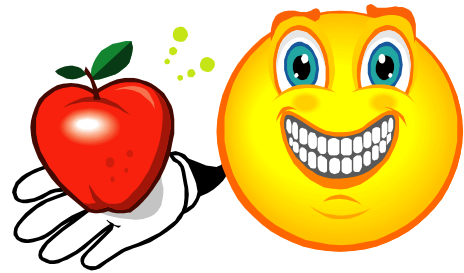
The Corporate Parenting Panel has Terms of Reference. This means all of the things they must do, to ensure that you are receiving what you need and want, that you are safe and happy and you are listened to by everyone.

To make this real, looked after children are members of this Panel.

Your Health

It is very important that everyone is healthy. That means keeps fit, has regular checks like dental checks and health matters can be dealt with quickly and caringly.

There are 3 nurses whose job is to make sure that your health is good.



Leisure, Socialising and Hobbies



We want to make sure children and young people can take part in activities, hobbies and leisure the same as any other child would.

If children have something to do and are encouraged to join in activities, it helps them feel good about themselves.

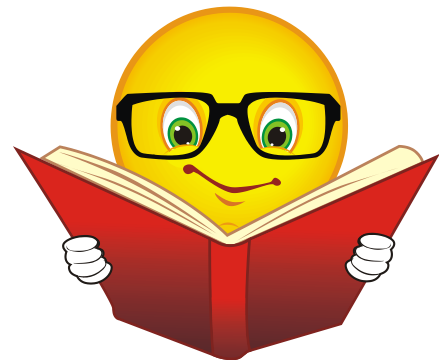
sports centres.

For instance, all looked after children have free access to all of the Council's sport and leisure facilities, like

Employment, Training, College and University

We want to make sure that all children have opportunities to reach their goals, whatever they are.

This may mean carrying on at school after 16, or getting a job in an area of interest, perhaps training in an area of interest, or attend University. We support young people we look after to go to University. The Council must provide accommodation for young people who were in care during the holidays, if they are at University.



Staying Put and Moving On

When children and young people are settled, they can work harder at school, make friends in the community and join in local activities. We are trying to make sure there are fewer changes of social workers for young people too.



Young people who are leaving care often live alone before their friends who are not in care. They need lots of support, help and advice, but they also need practical skills training such as cooking, washing, managing money and bills. It is hard for any young person to live alone the first time and this strategy supports this to happen.

The Council is right now making every effort to make sure that all young people leaving care have very high quality, comfortable accommodation, which is easy to get to and from.

Your Views

How can I say what I think Corporate Parents should do?

If you are not happy with something you must tell your Social Worker about it immediately. Also you can speak to:

Tros Gynnal Advocacy Services – offer independent and confidential support to children and young people and families through advocacy, participation, counseling, family group meetings and conflict resolution. They also offer advocacy support for those experiencing problems with emotional health and wellbeing.



You can contact them on 029 2039 6974 or email admin@trosgynnal.org.uk



We All Count

Corporate Parents have to make sure that all children are encouraged and supported to reach their goals and enjoy a good and happy childhood. We need to make sure we look after children living out of Neath Port Talbot and children who may need more help and support because of learning difficulties or disabilities. Corporate Parents must do the very best for children from a variety of cultures and who speak a variety of languages, or practise different religions. Everyone is important! We must ensure that children and young people feel confident about themselves and are encouraged to express themselves.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this Strategy you can speak to:

- Nick Jarman, Director of Social Services, Health & Housing on 01639 763279 or email: n.jarman@npt.gov.uk
- Andrew Jarrett, Head of Children's Services on 01639 763327 or email: a.jarrett@npt.gov.uk
- Complaints Team on 01639 763445 or email: complaints@npt.gov.uk
- Tros Gynnal Advocacy Services on 029 20396974 or email admin@trosgynnal.org.uk



There is more information about being in care and what support you should get at: <http://www.npt.gov.uk/cyps>

Appendix 2

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report Form

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to Equality and Diversity.

Please refer to the ‘Equality Impact Assessment Guidance’ while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Corporate Strategy Team or your directorate Heads of Service Equality Champion.

Where do you work?
Service Area: Children’s Services
Directorate: Social Services, Health & Housing

(a) This EIA is being completed for a...

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) Please name and describe below...

The Corporate Parenting Strategy describes the role of the Council as a corporate parent, its responsibilities of individuals and explains to Looked After Children (LAC) what they can expect from the Council.

(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity on ...

The Corporate Parenting Strategy was initially screened for age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage & civil partnership; pregnancy & maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; and welsh language;

(d) It was found to be relevant to...

Age.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion or belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(e) Lead Officer

Name: Leighton Jones

Job title: Business Strategy Manager

Date: 8th September 2014

(f) Approved by Director

Name: Nick Jarman

Date: 8th September 2014

Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan, proposal or project:

What are the aims?

The Corporate Parenting Strategy aims to describe the role of the Council as a corporate parent, its responsibilities of individuals and to explain to LAC what they can expect from the Council. The Strategy will bring together different agencies working with LAC to ensure the needs and wishes of LAC are listened to and acted upon.

Who has responsibility?

The Corporate Parenting Panel (a group of Councillors and key Officers).

Who are the stakeholders?

LAC; Children's Services staff; Education staff; Councillors; Health Authority staff;

Section 2 - Information about Service Users (See guidance):

Please tick what information you know about your service users and provide details/ evidence of how this information is collected.

Age.....	X	Race	X
Disability.....	X	Religion or belief	X
Gender reassignment.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex.....	X
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language	X

What information do you know about your service users and how is this information collected?

Each service user has a unique client index number; their details are collated and recorded on the directorate's secure system. The details are recorded in depth within the referral and assessment process undertaken by Children's Services following strict statutory guidelines.

Any Actions Required?

To consult with all stakeholders, in particular LAC.

Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further investigation
Age	➔ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	➔ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	➔ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	➔ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	➔ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh language	➔ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case including details of any consultation (and/or other information), which has been undertaken to support your view?

A consultation exercise was undertaken as part of an Information and Fun Day to ascertain views and comments on the Strategy as well as examine the impact on protected characteristics. The question we asked about the Policy was:

A Corporate Parent wants to make sure that you are cared for and this includes:

- your health,
- leisure, socialising and hobbies,
- education, employment, training, college and university,
- where you live,
- your views,
- provide you with contact information

Do you think anything is missing? (Yes/No); if yes, what do you think is missing?

The majority of the responses were 'no', nothing is missing. There were a couple of responses that asked for more information and improved communication and one response about safety. These are being dealt with accordingly.

The Strategy has been examined to assess the impact on LAC in respect of the categories above; it is considered positive in relation to age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex and welsh language by promoting the expectations placed on key stakeholders as a corporate parent. It has a neutral effect on gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and sexual orientation.

Common barriers, such as accessibility and availability of information will not exist given the nature and process of social work assessment; there is no evidence to suggest otherwise, e.g. no complaints.

Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge)

The Corporate Parenting Panel has and will continue to monitor the impact of the Strategy and the effects on LAC.

Section 4 - Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

Foster good relations between different groups	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

Please explain any possible impact on the above.

As previously stated the Strategy will bring together different agencies working with LAC to ensure the needs and wishes of LAC are listened to and acted upon, which lends it to fostering good relations, advance equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination and social exclusion.

What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

As stated, The Corporate Parenting Panel has and will continue to monitor the impact of the Strategy and the effects on LAC.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge)

The Corporate Parenting Panel to continue to monitor the impact of the Strategy and the effects on LAC.

Section 5 - Monitoring arrangements:

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project:

Monitoring arrangements: The Corporate Parenting Panel;

Actions: Further consultation events to be considered.

Section 6 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to guidance for further information on this section).

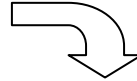
Outcome 1: Continue the initiative...

X

Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative...

Outcome 3: Justify the initiative...

Outcome 4: Stop and remove the initiative...



For outcome 3, detail the justification for proceeding here

Section 7 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please contact the Corporate Strategy Team for advice on the legal requirement to publish the findings of EIAs