

# **COPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

9<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## **Draft Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2012-2013**

### **Report of the Executive Director Children's Services**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: Learning City**

**CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT: Delivering Customer Focused Services**

#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To engage the Corporate Parenting Board in the production of the annual report which will be submitted to Scrutiny Committee in September 2013
- 1.2 The Annual report informs all members of the current position of the Council as 'Corporate Parent', to ensure they are aware of their role as corporate parents, of the current performance of the Council in meeting this responsibility, and of services and initiatives in place and under development to further improve outcomes for those children and young people to whom the Council has a parenting responsibility.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 To assist Members new to the Corporate Parenting Board, the context of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual report is repeated in this report.
- 2.2 The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced in 1998 by the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, who outlined the duties of members as follows:  
  
"For children who are looked after, your council has a legal and moral duty to try to provide the kind of loyal support that any good parents would give to their children...you should do your utmost to make sure that those children in public care get a good start in life...".
- 2.3 For 'Corporate Parenting' to replicate the quality of care afforded by a 'good parent', each agency and professional involved needs to consider how they can be proactive, within their own remit, on behalf of looked after children, and for all agencies to strive for ever stronger collaborative working so that the whole of the 'corporate parent' can be greater than the sum of its parts.

- 2.4 The Corporate Parenting responsibility is shared by the Council as a whole. All members, not just those with an interest in Children's Services, are 'Corporate Parents'. All members have legitimate mandate to ask "*would this be good enough for my child?*"

### **3 The Corporate Parenting Board**

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Board first met in September 2006 and has met quarterly since that date. At the first meeting the terms of reference were confirmed as set out in the Council Constitution and it was further agreed that the Board would report to the Children's Trust.
- 3.2 The Corporate Parenting Board continues to meet quarterly and in the past year has received reports concerning:
- The outcome of Safeguarding Inspections
  - Children's Services quarterly performance.
  - Independent Advocacy for children and young people
  - Housing and accommodation issues for Care Leavers
  - Report from the Change Council regarding the work looked after young people are undertaking to help improve services and represent young people in care
- 3.3 Some members of the Corporate Parenting Board have identified themselves as available to undertake 'Regulation 33' monitoring visits to our Children's Homes.

### **4 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report**

- 4.1 This year's annual report is being presented as a draft report to the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) prior to submission to Scrutiny Committee, so that members of CPB can amend the content, add emphasis etc
- 4.2 The draft Corporate Parenting Board annual report encompasses the annual performance report in relation to Sunderland's looked after children and young people, including the demographic breakdown, the placements they live in, how they do at school and in other areas of their lives. It also includes what young people tell us through Viewpoint.
- 4.3 This year's annual report also contains a section on adoption performance.

### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members of Corporate Parenting Board are invited to challenge, amend and improve this report before its submission to Scrutiny Committee in September 2013.