

**COUNCILLORS MENTORING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN** [Discussion Item]**Ideas re. Member involvement with young people.**

Following a discussion between the Head of Service and the Lead Member for children's services, there was a request to consider whether members could have roles as mentors for some looked after young people.

This discussion paper identifies a number of possible arrangements for consideration by the Corporate Parenting Board. It sets out suggested models, alongside the respective merits and pitfalls for each. It has not as yet been discussed with any of our young people, so their perspectives are not fully represented here.

	<b>Example</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Issues and risks</b>	<b>Alternatives</b>
1	Members involvement in 'Mentoring' individual young people in Care	Members will have a direct view of issues affecting individual young people	<p>Need to be clear about the different roles of mentor and member.</p> <p>How would members/young people be matched?</p> <p>Risk of emphasising the differences for young people in care, and for some, further increase the number of individuals they are required to deal with.</p> <p>Need for additional governance controls to deal with potential conflicts of interest and additional capacity to co-ordinate.</p> <p>Limit to the number of young people who could be provided with the service.</p>	There are existing mentoring schemes which members could join as volunteers, via the Leaving Care Service and YOS, with existing frameworks for supervision and consultation
2	Members being supported to become pro-	Young people better aware of	Members adopting a policy of openness to approaches by young people	Does this not require a briefing for all members.

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	active in developing their relationship with young people in care as their 'constituents'	<p>role of their local councillor.</p> <p>Fits into existing councillor roles</p> <p>Members would be able to raise their young people's concerns in their role as councillors</p>	<p>May require all members to be CRB cleared</p> <p>Would this apply to CPB members or all members?</p>	
3	Member involvement in Reg. 33 Visits	Framework for this is already in place	Need to maintain rota with Reg 33 system changes.	This should be in place regardless of other arrangements.
4	Direct Links between CPB and Change Members to support both CPB and Change development	<p>Members could 'mentor' Change members specifically in relation to their role in Change.</p> <p>Could be a two-way process, in that the young people could 'mentor' members</p>	<p>A departure from the government's declared intention for Children In Care Councils, although it is an additional way members could support the Change Council.</p> <p>Keeping the relationship specific to Change and CPB will avoid conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Need to ensure this does not cut across other lines of accountability/communication</p>	<p>Possible series of annual/biannual half-day combined workshops/seminars for young people and members</p> <p>Specific arrangements for young people to 'shadow' members in some of their duties</p>