

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	Value for Money Scrutiny Committee
Date:	23 June 2015
Subject:	Appointment of Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative

Summary:

This report invites the Value for Money Scrutiny Committee to appoint a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative for the Committee, following approval of the Corporate Parenting Strategy at the Council meeting on 19 December 2014.

Actions Required:

The Value for Money Scrutiny Committee is requested to appoint a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative for the Committee.

1. Background

The Local Authority, its members and officers, have a legal duty to act as a good and effective Corporate Parent to children and young people in its care. Corporate Parenting is driven and supported by key legislation and statutory guidance as detailed in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. These inform the Local Authority's policies, strategies and practices.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy was drafted by officers in conjunction with the Chairman (Councillor D Brailsford) and Vice Chairman (Councillor J D Hough) of the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Strategy was endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Panel at its meeting on 18 September 2014 and approved by County Council at its meeting on 19 December 2014.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the corporate parenting role and responsibilities of all councillors, and the corporate parenting engagement plan for 2014-15. One of the objectives within the engagement plan is the following:

"Each LCC Committee identifies a LAC/Care Leavers champion and the role is defined and purposeful. A list of Champions is published and known throughout organisation."

The role of the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Champion (or Representative as they will be called) is to make sure that the Committee actively considers the potential impact upon Looked After Children and Care Leavers of any policy,

strategy or action carried out by the Committee and to seek further advice from the relevant officer (Janice Spencer, Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding) where this is unclear or unsure.

It is proposed that when the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative raises any issues at their Committee, this will be formally recorded in the minutes and passed onto the Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding for her information and any further action required.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel have suggested that it would be beneficial if the Representatives were not members of the Corporate Parenting Panel, as this would help to broaden the knowledge and expertise regarding Looked After Children and Care Leavers amongst more councillors of the Council.

Once all the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives have been appointed, a detailed training session will be arranged to prepare the Representatives for their new role on the Committee.

2. Conclusion

Further to the Corporate Parenting Strategy that was approved at County Council on 19 December 2014, this report invites the Committee to appoint a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative for the Committee.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by David Hair, who can be contacted on 01522 552080 or davidr.hair@lincolnshire.gov.uk .

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