


Agenda Item 7

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

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

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	11 June 2015
Subject:	Appointment of Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives

Summary:

This report invites the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to appoint Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives, following the approval of the Corporate Parenting Strategy at the County Council meeting on 19 December 2014. It is proposed that one representative be selected from the County Council element of this Committee's membership; and the other representative be selected from the District Council element of the Committee's membership.

Actions Required:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is requested:

- (1) to appoint a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative from the County Council element of the Committee's membership; and
- (2) to appoint a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative from the District Council element of the Committee's membership.

1. Background

Corporate Parenting Role

Lincolnshire County Council, 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 County Council's policies, strategies and practices.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

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 County Council's Corporate Parenting Panel. The Strategy was endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Panel at its meeting on 18 September 2014 and approved by Lincolnshire 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 Lincolnshire County Council Committee identifies a Looked After Children/Care Leavers champion and the role is defined and purposeful. A list of Champions is published and known throughout organisation."

These champions will be referred to as the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives.

Two Representatives for the Health Scrutiny Committee

Each committee of the County Council is being asked to identify a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative. As the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire includes 7 district Councillors, it is prudent to recognise the importance of their contribution to the work of the Committee. To this end, it is proposed that there are two representatives for this Committee: one selected from the County Council element of the Committee's membership; the other selected from the District Council element of the Committee's membership.

In relation to the representative selected from the County Council membership, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel have suggested that it would be beneficial if they 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 County Council.

Role of Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative

The role of the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative is to make sure that the Health Scrutiny Committee actively considers the potential impact upon Looked After Children and Care Leavers of any policy, strategy or action considered 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.

Recording Issues Raised in the Minutes

It is proposed that when the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives raise 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.

Training

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 by Lincolnshire County Council on 19 December 2014, this report invites the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to appoint a County Councillor Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative and District Councillor Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative for the Committee.

3. Consultation

There is no consultation required as part of this item.

4. Background Papers

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

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