

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	County Council
Date:	19 December 2014
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy

Summary:

This report sets out the Corporate Parenting Strategy for approval by the County Council. The Strategy was endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Panel at its meeting on 18 September 2014.

Recommendation(s):

The County Council is recommended to approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

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 attached at Appendix A. These inform the Local Authority's policies, strategies and practices. As a Corporate Parent, it is important for councillors and staff to understand how these fit together with their role.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out what it means to be a good Corporate Parent, and how we intend to fulfil this duty in Lincolnshire. The Strategy defines three levels of responsibility and sets out which of these levels applies to all, and particular elected members and key officers of the Council.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy has been 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.

2. Conclusion

This report presents the Corporate Parenting Strategy to the County Council for approval. The Strategy sets out the corporate parenting role and responsibilities of all councillors and the corporate parenting engagement plan for 2014-15.

3. Legal Comments:

The Report invites all councillors through the meeting of the full Council to approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy as the way in which the Council and individual councillors will fulfil their corporate parenting role.

The decision is lawful and within the remit of the full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no additional financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendation in this report.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The draft Corporate Parenting Strategy was considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel at its meeting on 18 September 2014. The strategy has also been checked and approved by the Executive group of the Children in Care Council in Lincolnshire (V4C), asking for a young person's version once the 'adult' version has been completed. The Panel endorsed the attached Strategy and recommended that this should be considered by the County Council so that all councillors are made aware of their corporate parenting role and responsibilities.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing actions are required for this report.

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	Corporate Parenting Strategy
------------	------------------------------

7. 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 Colin Hopkirk, who can be contacted on 01522 555519 or colin.hopkirk@lincolnshire.gov.uk.