

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Full Council
DATE	26 June 2013
DIRECTOR	Fred McBride, Social Care and Wellbeing
TITLE OF REPORT	Elected Member Appointments to the Corporate Parenting Champions' Board
REPORT NUMBER:	SCW/13/034

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to request the appointment of Elected Members to represent Council on the Corporate Parenting Champions' Board.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The report seeks approval from Council to appoint the following representatives to the Corporate Parenting Champions Board:

- (i) The Convener of Social Care and Wellbeing Committee.
- (ii) Vice-convener of Social Care and Wellbeing Committee.
- (iii) One Elected Member from the Administration.
- (iv) One Elected Member from Opposition.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The report recommendations have no revenue or capital implications for current or future years. There are no financial risks associated with the delivery of a Corporate Parenting Board. There may be actions arising from the work of the Board that require services to work in new ways. However, such action will contribute to the continuous improvement of services and financial implications managed within existing budgets.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no legal implications to the recommendations.

4.2 The Champions Board will be assigned to post holders in the Planning and Development Team in Social Care and Wellbeing. The work plan for 2013-2014 is under revision to accommodate the project within existing resources.

- 4.3 There are no requirements for additional property or equipment contained in the proposals.
- 4.4 There are no concerns relating to sustainability or the environmental impact of the establishment of a Board.
- 4.5 The appropriate assessments of health and safety will be carried out within existing procedures as and when required.
- 4.6 There may be policy implications arising from the work of the Board as new ways of working are identified. However, any recommendations would be considered on a case by case basis by the relevant Council committee.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 Corporate Parenting refers to the collective responsibility of a local authority and its community partners to achieve good parenting to their looked after children.
- 5.2 The proposal to establish the Corporate Parenting Champions' Board was set out in the Council's revised Corporate Parenting Policy and Action Plan approved by the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee in June 2012.
- 5.3 The Corporate Parenting Champions' Board is a group of Elected Members and Chief Officers from the Council, NHS Grampian, Grampian Police and the Third Sector with the authority to make decisions to influence systemic change in the way services are delivered to improve outcomes for children and young people who are looked after or leaving care. The model provides an opportunity to consider how best to remove complex barriers to multi-agency working so that innovative solutions can be agreed and implemented in a timely manner supported by Elected Members and Chief Officers. Board members in addition are well placed to champion the needs and aspiration of children who are looked after and leaving care across wider decision making and policy forums.
- 5.4 In March 2013, the Corporate Parenting Champions' Board was established within the governance structures of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 5.5 The role and remit of the Corporate Parenting Champions' Board is as follows:
 - Provides a high profile platform to ensure the spotlight remains on the Corporate Parenting agenda and improving outcomes and care experiences of children who are looked after and care leavers.
 - Provides an innovative forum to debate 'need' and the 'prioritisation of need' in which all contributing parties have an equal stake (young people and champions alike).

- Actively promotes improvement in the delivering of corporate parenting duties by highlighting areas of good practice throughout the corporate family sphere of influence.
- Actively promotes improvement in the delivering of corporate parenting duties by challenging unsatisfactory practice throughout the corporate family sphere of influence.
- The Board can also demonstrate targeted and coordinated action to drive positive change in the care system.
- Actively promote and remove barriers to aid the smooth implementation of the *Corporate Parenting Policy 2012-2015*, *Family Firm Guidance and Procedure 2012-2015* and the *Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2012-2015*.
- Champion the remit of relevant strategic and operational groups that work towards achieving successful outcomes for children who are looked after and care leavers.
- Aberdeen's Corporate Parents' efforts are strengthened by having a better shared understanding of the issues affecting children who are looked after and care leavers.
- Children who are looked after young and care leavers directly participate to bring issues to the agenda, help secure better outcomes for themselves and for those who follow to empower young people.
- The Board provides enough decision making authority to drive positive change through timely action.
- Celebrate the achievements of children who are looked after and care leavers.
- The Board will only consider learning from anonymised case studies to ensure young people's rights will be protected in relation to information and data sharing.

5.6 The membership of the Board was agreed as follows:

- Convener of Social Care and Wellbeing Committee, Vice-convener of Social Care and Wellbeing Committee, one Elected Member from Administration and one Elected Member from Opposition
- Chief Executive Officer, Aberdeen City Council
- Director of Social Care and Wellbeing
- Chief Executive , NHS Grampian
- Local Police Commander
- Chief Executive, Aberdeen Council Voluntary Organisations
- 2 Young People (chosen by the 15 members of a Young Peoples Participation Group who represent the experience of all placement types e.g. at home, foster care, kinship care, residential care/schools, care leavers).

5.7 The Board will meet twice a year and will be supported by the Children's Services Manager for Planning and Development and Principal Planning and Development Officer in Social Care and Wellbeing Children's Services. The meetings would be scheduled for evening to ensure children and young people can attend. The inaugural meeting of the Board is expected to be October 2013.

6. IMPACT

- 6.1 The programme of work will contribute to the Council's commitments set out in the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement: Outcome 8 - to improve the life chances of children, young people and families at risk; and the 5 Year Corporate Business Plan: SCWB 6 – to review workforce/skills mix and SCWB 14: reduce use of Out Of Authority Placements.
- 6.2 An Equalities Human Rights Impact Assessment was carried out against all actions set out in the Corporate Parenting Policy and Action Plan in 2012. It is therefore deemed unnecessary to carry out a separate EHRIA on each specific action.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 7.1 The Social Care and Wellbeing Service undertake and comply with measures set out in the Councils Risk Assessment Framework when working with vulnerable young people. The lead officers supporting the young people will be qualified social work staff.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Aberdeen City Council Corporate Parenting Policy 2012-2015
- (ii) Aberdeen City Council Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2012-2015
- (iii) EHRIA ACC Corporate Parenting Policy 2012-2015.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Kay Dunn
Children's Services Manager
Planning and Development Team
Social Care and Wellbeing Service
kdunn@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523321

Natalija Clark
Principal Planning and Development Officer
Planning and Development Team
Social Care and Wellbeing Service
Nclark@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522304