

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

14 November 2023

Cabinet member for Children, Families & Education – Councillor Fiona Baker

Report Title	Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022-23
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022 - 23...

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and to seek Cabinet’s approval on the Report being shared at the next Full Council meeting.

2. Executive Summary

1.2. The annual report is structured as follows:

- **Executive Summary.** Summarising the report as a whole.
- **Governance and Statutory Context.** Sets out the legal underpinning of corporate parenting, and the structure and role of the Board, including in light of the creation of the Trust and creation of two unitary councils.
- **Board activity.** Summarises the activity of the Board during the reporting period, including meeting arrangements, membership and service reports.
- **Young people's participation and successes.** Including details of the summer celebration event for children in care, and how the Board celebrates and includes young people.
- **Corporate Parenting Board diagnostic.** Details about a diagnostic exercise carried out with the Local Government Association, with identified strengths, risks and opportunities for development.
- **Northamptonshire Children Trust's (NCT's) Improvement Plan progress.** Setting out progress achieved and areas for development under the improvement plan's six key headers.
- **Appendix: four priorities.** Progress and areas of development in respect of the four priorities set out in the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-25.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet note the content of the Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report that gives an overview of the Corporate Parenting Board and its oversight, challenges and activities.
- 3.2 Note that The NCT Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-25 sets out four key priorities including updates on each areas progress.
- 3.3 Recommend that the report is taken to the Councils' Full Council meetings for consideration.

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 Reason for Recommendations:

- To promote and monitor the Trust's corporate parenting strategy.
- To encourage all members and employees to recognise their role as corporate parents.

4.2 Alternative Options Considered:

4.3 No other options considered

5. Report Background

5.1 Local authorities and their partners are responsible for ensuring that care-experienced children and young people are as safe and well cared for as any other child. This responsibility is called

‘corporate parenting’ and applies equally to children who have entered the UK from overseas and are separated from their families. Corporate parenting duty rests not only with social workers and their managers, but also any other agency that provides services and support to children in care such as health services, housing departments, the police and schools. Corporate parents have specific duties for young people leaving care and making the journey to independence.

- 5.2 The report sets out the role, structure and activity of the Corporate Parenting Board, including progress achieved against the NCT Improvement Plan and the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 NCT produce an Annual Report and an Annual Review which gives an overview of the whole service including Corporate Parenting. The Annual Report will give further overview of any issues.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 The annual report sets out the Councils’ corporate parenting responsibilities and aspirations for children and young people and is intended to help the local authorities devote appropriate finances and resources to meeting these aims.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 The annual report sets out the legal framework for local authorities’ corporate parenting responsibilities. The recommendations of the report are intended to help the local authority meet its legal corporate parenting responsibilities.

- 7.2.2 The Board itself is not a statutory body. However, selected service reports are required to be seen by a suitable oversight body, and Board fulfils this function.

- 7.2.3 The annual report aims to help the council and NCT meet its corporate parenting objectives and priorities:

- 7.2.4 Four priorities for children in care and care leavers are set out in the NCT Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021/25:

- Live Safe, Be Safe
- Fulfil Potential
- Develop Resilience
- Enjoy Good Health and Wellbeing.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 Relevant risks are those associated with the council and the Trust failing to meet its corporate parenting responsibilities and aspirations for children and young people, including:
- Children and young people have poor outcomes and do not achieve their potential.
 - NCT and Council employees do not recognise their role as corporate parents.

7.3.2 Overall, these risks imply a deleterious impact on the outcomes for children in care.

7.4 **Consultation and Communications**

7.4.1 The report was submitted to and agreed by the Corporate Parenting Boards for West and North Northamptonshire Councils in July 2023.

7.4.2 The Council continues to work with partners including Northamptonshire Children's Trust to promote the objectives and outcomes within the report.

7.5 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

7.5.1 This report has not been considered by the councils scrutiny committee

7.6 **Climate Impact**

7.6.1 None specifically identified

7.7 **Community Impact**

7.7.1 The recommendations aim to improve outcomes for Northamptonshire children and young people in care and care leavers, including in the community.

8. **Background Papers**

8.1 None