

# WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

2 December 2021

**Councillor Fiona Baker:**  
**Cabinet Member for Children Families, Education and Skills.**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2020-21</b>
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## Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

<b>West MO</b> (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	23/11/2021
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## List of Appendices

### **Appendix A - Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2020-21**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1 This is the Annual Report of the Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board for 2020-21. The report is presented to the Council for information.

#### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 The report is structured as follows:

**Foreword.** From Cllrs Fiona Baker and Scott Edwards.

**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.

**Life During Lockdown.** Sets out actions taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**The Voice of Children and Young People.** Celebrating the work of our participation groups for young people, and showcases some of their artwork.

**Our Pledge and what we have achieved.** Gives a narrative update in regards to progress against each section of the Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers. Some headline data is included.

**The Fostering Service.** Updates activity undertaken in the fostering service over the year. Includes some headline data.

**The Adoption Service.** Updates activity undertaken in the adoption service over the year. Includes some headline data.

**NCC Children's Homes.** Brief overview of the purpose and activity of each of the NCC children's homes, including the new ones.

**Commissioning Services.** Sets out the work of our commissioning services, such as monitoring accommodation providers and embedding new service developments.

**Workforce development.** Details some of the activity that is taking place to ensure the Trust has a stable and able workforce.

**Demographics.** The demographic makeup of our children in care, including ethnicity, legal status and placement types.

**Northamptonshire Children's Trust Improvement Plan.** As updated in April 2021. staffing, lower staff turnover and caseloads and positive feedback from staff surveys.

### **3. Recommendations**

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3.1 It is recommended that the Council notes the contents of the report.

### **4. Reason for Recommendations**

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4.1 The report is for information, but it is considered good practice for the Council to receive the report in line with the role of each councillors as a corporate parent. The report enables to

Council to take a view of the work being undertaken on its behalf by the Corporate Parenting Board.

## **5. Report Background**

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5.1 The report sets out the role, structure and activity of the Board, specifically in terms of our progress against the Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers. The report also details the work of the Children in Care and Care Leavers' Councils, the Fostering and Adoption Services, Commissioning Services and NCC children's homes. Demographic information about our population of children in care and care leavers is also provided, with comparative data for the previous year, along with details of the Children's Services Improvement Plan.

## **6. Issues and Choices**

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6.1 No decisions are required.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1 Resources and Financial**

7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals. The Strategic Finance Business Partner, West Northants has confirmed there are no financial implications contained within the report. The financial performance of the Children's Trust services in 2200-21 spanned both Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) for seven months and the new organisation being delivered via a contract for an agreed sum. The financial aspects of this have been reported to the Council through the Provisional Outturn report that was considered by Cabinet in September 2021 and previously through NCC cabinet

### **7.2 Legal**

7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal to note the report.

### **7.3 Risk**

7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposal to note the report.

### **7.4 Consultation**

7.4.1 The report was submitted to and agreed by the Corporate Parenting Board on the 30th of September. The Board includes the Trust CEO, Director of Children's Services for the Trust and two councils, and both cabinet members for Children and Families.

### **7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

7.5.1 The Corporate Parenting Board is not a decision making body and does not report directly to a scrutiny committee.

## 7.6 **Climate Impact**

7.6.1 There is no climate impact arising from the proposal to note the report.

## 7.7 **Community Impact**

7.7.1 The report considers the safety and wellbeing of Northamptonshire children in care and care leavers, including those living out of county.

## 7.8 **Communications**

7.8.1 Minor amendments to wording have been made upon the recommendations of the Communications Team. The report has also been reviewed to ensure it is accessible.

## **8. Background Papers**

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8.1 None.