

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	STRENGTHENING THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE		
DATE OF DECISION:	12 th SEPTEMBER 2013		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None

BRIEF SUMMARY

At its meeting on 9th September 2013 the Council's Corporate Parenting Committee is discussing opportunities to establish a corporate parenting structure which places Southampton in the strongest position to deliver its responsibilities as a corporate parent.

The report, attached as Appendix 1, includes the following recommendation: *'That the Corporate Parenting Group explores with the Chair of the Council's OSMC how the CPG can fulfil its scrutiny function under the umbrella of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee'*.

It is therefore appropriate, given the recommendation above, that this proposal is considered at a meeting of the OSMC to enable appropriate governance arrangements to be established that contribute towards improving outcomes for children looked after in Southampton.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) That, taking into consideration the outcomes of the discussion at the 9 September meeting of the Corporate Parenting Committee, the Committee discusses and approves the proposal outlined in Appendix 1 to incorporate the Corporate Parenting scrutiny function under the umbrella of the OSMC.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable Members of the OSMC to give due consideration to the proposal that is scheduled to be presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee on 9th September 2013.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. The various options available to strengthen the Council's approach to corporate parenting are identified in Appendix 1.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. Corporate parenting is a statutory function of the Council. Elected Members have an overall responsibility for ensuring that children and young people in their care are healthy, safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being, both while they are in care and when they leave care. The role of the Corporate Parent is to ensure that the service's that the Council provides contributes towards achieving these positive outcomes for these children and young people.
4. At present the Corporate Parenting Committee performs the advisory and challenge role relating to the Council's role as corporate parents to children looked after in Southampton. Membership of the Committee is drawn from Cabinet and opposition members and it meets bi-monthly.
5. To strengthen the Council's approach, and to improve outcomes, a report to the 9 September 2013 meeting of the Corporate Parenting Committee, attached as Appendix 1, recommends changes to the governance arrangements relating to corporate parenting in Southampton. This includes the recommendation to explore with the Chair of the Council's OSMC how the Corporate Parenting Group can fulfil its scrutiny function under the umbrella of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
6. The OSMC is asked to consider the recommendations outlined in the report to the Corporate Parenting Committee and discuss the proposal with the Director of People.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

7. None identified at this stage

Property/Other

8. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

9. There are statutory obligations and guidance for the role of the Local Authority as the Corporate Parent in the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Children and Young Person's Act 2008, Quality Protects 1998, DfES 2003 - Councillor's Guide to being a Corporate Parent and the Duty on Local Authorities to Promote the Educational Achievement of Looked after Children.
10. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

11. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

12. Raising ambitions and outcomes for young people, and improving health and keeping people safe are identified as Council priorities within the 2013-16

Council Plan.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Report to Corporate Parenting Committee – Recommendations for Strengthening the Corporate Parenting Committee
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Dependent upon forward plan item
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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