

Item No: 13

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 21st September 2016

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

Report By: Susanne Miller Chief Officer, Planning, Strategy & Commissioning/ Chief Social Work Officer

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CORPORATE PARENTING FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
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Purpose of Report:	To describe how the Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care Partnership will support the Council and Health Board to fulfill their statutory duties as corporate parents for looked after children.
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Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note the contents of this report and the progress being made to prepare a corporate parenting plan for the Health and Social Care Partnership. b. Agree to a training session for Integration Joint Board members and senior managers on the corporate parenting duties. c. Suggest potential actions which could be included in the corporate parenting plan. d. Agree that a draft corporate parenting plan should be approved by the Integrated Joint Board prior to issuing it for formal consultation. e. Agree to the proposal that the role of the Council's Champions' Board is extended to allow reporting to both the Integration Joint Board and Council Committee and to nominate 3 Integration Joint Board members to sit on the Champions' Board.
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Implications for HSCP/IJB:

Financial:	At this stage it is not possible to quantify the financial implications of corporate parenting but this may become clearer once we have more details about the specific actions that will be included in our plan.
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Personnel:	At this stage it is not possible to fully account for the personnel
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	implications of corporate parenting but this may become clearer once we have more details about the specific actions that will be included in our plan. At a minimum staff will be required to participate in training, development and awareness raising activities.
Legal	The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 extended the statutory duty of corporate parenting for all looked after children from local authorities to a range of public bodies, including health boards, from 1 April 2015. The statutory guidance on the Act is clear that, whilst responsibility for delivering a service, support or opportunity (to a looked after children or care leaver) may be delegated to an integrated authority, accountability for securing and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people remains with the organizations and individuals listed in schedule 4 of the Act, including local authorities and health boards. The corporate parenting plan being developed by the health and social care partnership will contribute to the Council and Health Board's plans.
Economic Impact:	Improving the life chances for looked after and accommodated children should have a positive impact on the City as the young people will be able to more fully contribute to Glasgow's economy.
Sustainability:	Not applicable
Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:	Not applicable
Equalities:	Our plan will take into account that some children and young people (such as those with a disability, are from minority ethnic background, are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) or have very challenging family and home lives, may require additional support in order to benefit fully from corporate parenting.
Risk Implications:	<p>There are two main implications if we do not take forward this work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looked after children and young people may not receive appropriate help resulting in them not achieving positive outcomes. 2. The Health Board and Council would be in breach of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and may be subject to legal action.

Implications for Glasgow City Council:	This is a continuation of existing duties for local authorities. However, the Council may wish to update its existing Corporate Parenting policy to reflect the new legislation
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Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde:	The 2014 Act extended the statutory duty to be a corporate parent for all looked after children from local authorities to a range of public bodies, including health boards from 1 April 2015. The Act requires the Health Board to develop a corporate parenting plan.
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Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	✓
	2. Glasgow City Council	
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
	4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to describe how the Integration Joint Board / Health and Social Care P will support the Council and Health Board to fulfill their corporate parenting duties under the **Children's and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**.

2. National policy and legislative context for corporate parenting

- 2.1 When a child or young person becomes 'looked after' the state assumes duties and responsibilities to safeguard and promote their welfare and wellbeing. A wide range of legislation, regulation and guidance provides the framework to support the child or young person but the objective of all of them is the same: to secure nurturing, positive childhoods, from which these vulnerable young people can develop into successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- 2.2 Despite the legal and policy framework, many looked after children and care leavers experience some of the poorest outcomes of any group in Scotland. Low levels of educational engagement and achievement feed into high levels of poverty, homelessness and poor mental health. The rates of suicide and self-harm by looked after and accommodated children are higher than that of the general population. Nationally, in 2013 a third of young offenders had been in care at some point in their childhood.
- 2.3 The needs of looked after children and care leavers are often complex, reflecting backgrounds of trauma, loss and instability. Some have physical and/or learning disabilities and mental health problems. Safeguarding and promoting their welfare and wellbeing can, therefore, be challenging.¹
- 2.4 The extension of corporate parenting from local authorities, to a wider range of public bodies (including health boards) by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014,

¹ Statutory Guidance on Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/08/5260/2>

will ensure that a much larger number of organisations take on responsibility for promoting the wellbeing of looked after children and young people.

- 2.5 The definition of corporate parent is an **“organisation's performance of actions necessary to promote and support the wellbeing or a looked after child or care leaver, including their physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cognitive development”**. Good corporate parents will want the same outcomes for their looked after children as any good parent would want for their own children. They will accept responsibility for them and make their needs a priority. More specifically, the Act stipulates that it is the duty of every corporate parent, in so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its functions to:
- Be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and young people.
 - Assess the needs of looked after children and young people.
 - Promote the interests of looked after children and young people.
 - Seek to provide looked after children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing.
 - Take action as it considers appropriate to help looked after children and young people access those opportunities.
 - Keep its approach to corporate parenting under constant review, seeking out improvement wherever possible.
- 2.6 Under the legislation corporate parenting duties apply to **all** looked after children, regardless of their age, gender, location or placement type and to **all care leavers, up until their 26th birthday**. In addition, corporate parenting duties will apply to people who between their 11th and 16th birthdays were, but are no longer, looked after by a local authority for periods of time which, when aggregated, **total not less than 2 years**.
- 2.7 When looked after children and young people have been placed into an area by another local authority, or a care leaver moves to a new area of their own volition, **the placing / home local authority and its partners** remain the child / young person's corporate parents.
- 2.8 A corporate parent must prepare, keep under review, and publish a **corporate parenting plan**, which sets out how it will fulfill its corporate parenting responsibilities. Prior to publishing a corporate parenting report or revising a corporate parenting plan, corporate parents should undertake and publish a review of their performance. There is an expectation in the legislation that corporate parents will collaborate with each other to implement these duties.
- 2.9 An organisation's **most senior management** is responsible for ensuring that the duties are met and will be held accountable for an organisation's performance in respect to corporate parenting. Accountability for corporate parenting cannot be delegated to an individual or team as the whole organisation is responsible for fulfilling these duties.

3. Glasgow Context

3.1 There are 12,410 open cases held by Social Work Services' Children and Families teams. Of these, 3,346 children and young people are looked after by the Council. Glasgow's looked after children represent approximately 22% of all looked after children in Scotland. The top 4 reasons for children being taken into care in December 2015 were child protection concerns, neglect/lack of parental care, drug or alcohol misuse by a parent/carer and domestic violence in family. It should be noted that many of our young people will have experienced all of these issues.

3.2 Around 38% of children are living with kinship carers, 35% with foster carers, 16% at home with parents, 4% in children's units directly provided by the Council, 3% in specialist purchased resources, 1% in residential schools and 1% in either secure or another form of placement. In addition, Social Work Services is supporting 338 young people through Leaving Care Services.²

3.3 Corporate parenting is not a new concept and has been a duty on local authorities for a number of years. In Glasgow, we can point to a number of achievements in implementing corporate parenting and in caring for looked after children and young people:

- Wide range of opportunities for children and young people to express their views of services and what improvements would help enhance their experiences of care, including access to advocacy support from Children's Rights and Who Cares? Scotland.
- Development of a multi-agency assessment and Child's Plan (known in Glasgow as the GIRFEC assessment for looked after children) based on Getting it Right for Every Child and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- A stronger focus on ensuring that "Looked after Children reviews" are completed regularly and in a timely fashion.
- Mandatory training and development for elected members to advise them of their corporate parenting duties. Training is delivered by one or two young people who have experienced care from the Council and a senior manager.
- The Leader of the Council has hosted an annual achievements' award event to celebrate the achievements of children and young people looked after or in leaving. Since the awards began in 2012, over 55 young people have received an award. Each year two carers, nominated by the children and young people they look after, receive a "Carers Award".
- Substantial investment in improvements in the quality of our directly provided residential children's units through new build or refurbishment of existing properties. Out of the 20 existing units, 9 are completed new builds and another 3 are planned to be completed between September 2016 and August 2017.
- Increased financial support and practical support for kinship carers to help them in their caring role.
- Increased investment by the Council in Adoption and Fostering Service with successful recruitment campaigns to increase the pool of foster carers to provide looked after children and young people with high quality care in homely environments.
- Speedier responses to children who are particularly vulnerable and require to be accommodated by the Council.

² Children and Families' Dashboard 29 June 2016

- Stronger focus on permanency planning for children and young people.
- Leaving Care Services (LCS) has good partnership arrangements with a range of employability related agencies. In addition, LCS provides in-house support for young people to help them access employability and employment opportunities.
- Leaving care protocol with Glasgow Housing Association/Wheatley Group has been in place for 9 years and around 200 young people have obtained permanent tenancies. We are in the process of agreeing the protocol with another 13 registered social landlords.
- Commitment from the Council to vary access to the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme to recognise the needs of young people leaving care.

4. Developing a Health and Social Care Partnership Corporate Parenting Plan

4.1 However, we recognise that we can do much more to promote the wellbeing of looked after young people and our corporate parenting plan will outline how we intend to do this over the next three years.

4.2 The Health and Social Care Partnership is taking forward reviews and re-designs of many of its services as part of our Transformational Change programme. Services for children and young people are included in this programme, with a specific focus on improving the quality of service and outcomes for looked after and accommodated children. The following is a summary of the change projects which will impact on looked after children and which will form a core part of our corporate parenting plan:

- **Improving the care pathway** with an early focus on improving assessment and care planning for looked after children. Specific outcomes of this project will be a reduction in children moving into formal care, more appropriate placements made available for young people and a reduction in the use of high cost placements.
- **A review and refresh of directly provided residential care** with specific outcomes of creating flexibility and space within residential care in response to the increase in demand as a result of the expansion in the number of young people staying in care after 16 years of age (continuing care) and improving the outcomes for young people who live in the residential units.
- **Develop and modernise the continuing care arrangements³** and the capacity within formal care arrangements. The outcomes of this work will be to improve the outcomes for young people (e.g. education, training, employment and housing) and enhance capacity in response to the increasing number of young people who may opt to stay in care longer.
- **Kinship Care⁴** - To ensure the correct balance of care is afforded to kinship families, in order to promote stability of placements and to ensure kinship care remains the primary consideration when children are no longer able to remain in the care of birth parents either in the short or long term. This will include the introduction of Family Group Decision Making and a Family Finding Service.

³ This refers to young people who are eligible to continue to receive care from local authority until they are 21 years of age. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 extends the age limit from 16 years and this is being progressed in a phased basis over a number of years.

⁴ Children looked after by their families or friends are defined as being in kinship care.

4.3 In addition to the projects listed above key areas of focus of our plan will include:

- Sustaining a robust approach to the timely completion of care plan reviews for all looked after children.
- Ensuring the full implementation of the comprehensive health assessment for looked after children.⁵
- Working with partner agencies to improve support for children who are looked after by the Council but are living at home and ensuring that these children have access to the range of services that are available to promote their wellbeing.
- Ensuring that Glasgow children and young people, who are in placements outwith the City, have access to the same opportunities as those in Glasgow.

4.4 It is our intention that the final version of our corporate parenting plan will be ready by the end of March 2017. This timescale will enable the Health and Social Care Partnership to properly involve young people and our staff in the process and will ensure that we can learn from and build on the progress that Social Work Services had made, prior to the 2014 Act, in meeting its duties as a corporate parent.

4.5 In the meantime there are some important “quick wins” the Health and Social Care Partnership could achieve during 2016/17, which would set in place a foundation for the longer term plan. These include:

- Briefing for senior management teams (completed for the three locality management teams)
- Communicating with our staff to let them know about the corporate parenting duties and how these apply to them (a communications’ plan is being drafted).
- We are investigating how e-learning resources could be made available for both NHS and Social Work staff.
- Training by Who Cares? Scotland for Integration Joint Board members and senior managers is being planned for the 26th October 2016.

5. Governance and Accountability

5.1 Glasgow City Council established a Champions’ Board⁶ in 2011, and there have been discussions as to how its role could be extended so that it can support the role of the Integration Joint Board and the Health and Social Care Partnership in delivering on the

⁵ In 2009 the Scottish Government instructed each NHS Board to assess the physical, mental and emotional health needs of all looked after children and young people for whom they have responsibility and to put in place appropriate measures which take account of these assessments. All health service providers should work to make their services more accessible to looked after children and young people and to those in the transition from care to independence.

⁶Council Champions’ Board for Children and Young People’s remit is to:

- Ensure that the strategic Corporate Parenting responsibilities are met by all departments and elected members
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes for looked after children and report
- Bring forward actions required by the Council to secure continuous improvement in these outcomes.
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes for all of Glasgow’s children and young people and bring recommendations to Executive Committee where appropriate for actions required by the Council to secure continuous improvement in these outcomes.
- Recognise and celebrate the achievements of Glasgow’s young people and raise aspirations and expectations throughout the city

corporate parenting responsibilities, as well as the Council. It is proposed that the Champion's Board could offer an on-going performance monitoring role by receiving reports on progress on issues relating to corporate parenting and would assist in facilitating wider connections with the council family to improve collaboration between the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Health Board's non-executive members, who are currently on the Integration Joint Board, would be offered membership of the Champions' Board as part of the re-design of that Board's role.

- 5.2 To ensure that leadership for corporate parenting is in place at the highest level in the Chief Officer, Planning, Strategy and Commissioning and Chief Social Work Officer, is sponsoring the development of the Integration Joint Board / Health and Social Care Partnership plan.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Board is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of this report and the progress being made to prepare a corporate parenting plan for the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- b) Agree to a training session for Integration Joint Board members and senior managers on the corporate parenting duties.
- c) Suggest potential actions which could be included in the corporate parenting plan.
- d) Agree that a draft corporate parenting plan should be approved by the Integration Joint Board prior to issuing it for formal consultation.
- e) Agree to the proposal that the role of the Council's Champions' Board is extended to allow reporting to both the Integration Joint Board and Council Committee and to nominate 3 Integration Joint Board members to sit on the Champions' Board.