

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 17 June 2019</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Purpose of Report:	To provide for the re-appointment of the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health
Responsible Officer:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This is an internal matter and therefore no external consultation procedure is necessary
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To seek Cabinet approval regarding the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel following the change in the Council's Administration.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Corporate Parenting Panel be re-appointed, with its membership comprising 2 Conservative Group Members, 2 Labour Group Members and 1 Member each from the Plaid Cymru Group, Llantwit First Independents Group and the Vale Independents Group.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To facilitate the ongoing role of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel in its current format was appointed by Cabinet on 30th July, 2012. Cabinet had previously agreed (on 15th July, 2009) that the membership of the Panel be increased from 3 to 7 members. In doing so, the Cabinet had taken into account, and agreed to, a recommendation from the former Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health) that the membership of the Panel include all political groups.
- 1.2 In 2017, as there was no other independent group on the Council, the Panel membership was reduced from 7 to 6 members.

### **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 Elected Members and the Council as a whole have a legal and moral duty to provide the level of support, care and protection to all looked after children that any good parent would give to their own children. It is important, therefore, that this responsibility is understood and that appropriate actions to promote the wellbeing of looked after children are prioritised across the Council.
- 2.2 Corporate parenting responsibilities can be delivered only when there is a clear political commitment and leadership and when senior managers agree that this is a priority that can be made explicit in strategic and business planning. In order to achieve this framework for action, the Council has established the cross-party Corporate Parenting Panel to be chaired by the Executive Lead Member for Social Care and Health (whose portfolio includes Children's Services), the Panel consists of Elected Members, senior officers and a care experienced young person representative.
- 2.3 The Corporate Parenting Panel will resume its schedule of meetings shortly and a new work programme will be agreed by the Panel at that time. A key matter for the Panel will be oversight of the Action Plan linked to the delivery of the Corporate Strategy for Children in need of care and support. The Strategy was

endorsed by Cabinet in September 2016 and positively reflects the Council wide commitment to children in need of care and support.

- 2.4** In terms of the size of the Panel, as there is now the Vale Independent Group on the Council, it is suggested that the Panel be increased to 7 members from 6 i.e. 2 Conservative, 2 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru, 1 Llantwit First Independent and 1 Vale Independent which is in line with the political balance of the Council.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The report ties in with the Corporate Wellbeing Outcome of an Active and Healthy Vale as well as the approach to integrated planning under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

### **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1** There are no resource implications arising directly out of this report.

#### **Employment**

- 4.2** There are no employment implications arising directly out of this report.

#### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 4.3** The Corporate Parenting Panel is a subsidiary of Cabinet. The membership of the Panel has not, historically, been taken into account in the calculation of overall political balance on the Council. Nevertheless, it is felt that it would be beneficial if all political groups continued to be represented.

### **5. Background Papers**

Report to Cabinet: 30th July, 2012