

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....16th June 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Corporate Parenting Strategy

2. Record of the Decision

Members noted that the Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the ambitions of the Council, in conjunction with its partners, to improve outcomes for children and young people in care and leaving care. The strategy reflected the statutory responsibility of the local authority to act as the corporate parent for those children and young people.

The strategy had been subject to review during the past year and a revised strategy, for 2011-2013, was now provided for approval

The current Corporate Parenting Strategy was developed in 2007. MALAP (the Multi-Agency Looked After Children Partnership which oversees the strategy) identified the need for the strategy to be reviewed in order to reflect the current needs of children and young people in care and leaving care.

A revised strategy had been drafted, building on work undertaken during 2010 by the Children in Care Council to develop a new Pledge for looked after children (LAC). The strategy had been developed subsequently to take account of a number of other influences:

- outcomes of the Year 1 EIT (Efficiency Improvement and Transformation) Review of Child Placements;
- the findings of the Safeguarding / Looked After Children Inspection undertaken by Ofsted in September 2010;
- the increasing number of looked after children and the overall profile of the LAC population;
- evaluation of performance and outcomes for LAC by MALAP over the past two years.

The strategy had been subject to regular discussion and consultation over the past year, through MALAP, the Children in Care Council, the Children's Trust Management Team, and the Children's Trust Board.

Once adopted by the Council, all other partners to the Children's Trust Board (who are expected to share the corporate parenting responsibility) would be asked to endorse the strategy and to sign up to the Pledge.

RECOMMENDED TO Council that:

1. the Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved.
2. all members of the Council sign up to the pledge included within the strategy.
3. partner organisations represented on the Children's Trust Board be requested to adopt the strategy and sign up to the pledge.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The strategy was key to delivery of the corporate parenting responsibility of all members of the Council.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not applicable

Proper Officer  
20 June 2011