

Corporate Parenting Strategy Committee Report



PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Non-key decision

COMMITTEE: Children and Young People Committee

DATE: 06 March 2025

TITLE: Corporate Parenting Strategy update report July 2024-January 2025

Ward(s): Citywide

Officer presenting the report: Fiona Tudge **Job title:** Director – Children and Families

Committee Chair: Cllr Christine Townsend

Executive Director lead: Hannah Woodhouse: **Executive Director for Childrens and Education**

Proposal origin: Committee Chair

Purpose of Report: To provide an update on the progress of the corporate parenting strategy since its sign off in July 2024.

Evidence Base:

1. Foundational governance and assurance activity:

- Promotion and engagement work with Local Authority and key partners via leadership boards and meetings and written communications regarding new corporate parenting strategy.
- Development and sign off of the delivery plan with support from the Projects, Portfolios and Programmes team. Sourcing and allocation of leads and timescales for each individual action within the strategy.
- Alignment of the Corporate Parenting Strategy to the Families First transformation programme.
The delivery of the corporate parenting strategy has been identified as a key dependency for the

programme which will help maintain its profile as a workstream of key importance for the city.

- Launch of the Engine Room (programme board) to support the delivery of the corporate parenting strategy: Engaged with over 20 key partners to create the programme board with lines of accountability to Corporate Leadership Board and Full Council. Corporate Parenting Panel will also receive regular updates via their reporting framework to ensure progress on the strategy is driven both politically and at officer level. The Terms of Reference (see appendix) summarise the individual roles, expectations and responsibilities of each member. To maintain progress we have appointed specific people in the role of Senior Responsible Officer, Delivery Partners and Programme Manager. Political and Executive Sponsorship is provided by Cllr Christine Townsend and Hannah Woodhouse respectively.

2. Progress highlights on specific items within the strategy:

- Motion to treat care experience as a locally protected characteristic was passed by Full Council in January. An implementation group is now being set up and a new equality impact assessment has been drafted and is due to go live on The Source at the end of March 2025.
- Corporate Parenting Panel development work has taken place to maintain momentum for corporate parenting improvement work across the city. The panel will now hear regular updates on strategy progress and provide links from their various parties, boards and areas of interest to ensure corporate parenting is maintained as a city-wide responsibility and appropriately profiled at Full Council.
- Work is underway to improve opportunities for children to express their views, wishes and feelings and ensure these have been taken into account in decision-making.
- Two meetings of the working group have taken place with objectives set focusing on information

loops between children and young people and decision-making forums, maximising and measuring impact and coordination of work.

- A building for the new care leaver hub has been identified and the agreement to lease has been signed. The team is in post and the service should be operational by Easter 2025. This will underpin the wider agenda to increase access to support for young people leaving care from 18.
- Monthly life story workshops and drop-ins for staff have been established, a two-day training programme for practitioners has taken place and more is planned for 2025. Specialist training is now available for foster carers and supervising social workers and a city-wide life story strategy is in development.
- Support for celebrations events for children in care, care leavers and foster carers has been secured via the Children and Young People's One City Board, and a sub-group has since been set up to ensure delivery. Plans are in place in partnership with Bristol Beacon to deliver a series of events in May for children in care, care leavers and foster carers.
- The One City Board have also committed to support further engagement with the EPIC charity to enable access to hobbies and opportunities for care-experienced young people. The charity's website has just been revamped and social media channels launched:
www.epiccharitybristol.org.uk
- A review of the support offer to foster carers has taken place in collaboration with Bristol Foster Carer Association and Bristol Therapeutic Support Service, including additional out of hours support. Results of the consultation have been incorporated into the Families First transformation programme.

Officer Recommendations:

1. That the Committee for Children and Young People note the progress in delivering the Corporate

Parenting Strategy 2024-29.

2. That the Committee for Children and Young people continue to promote and profile the corporate parenting agenda across the council and with its key partners to give the strategy the best chance at success.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. The Corporate Strategy acknowledges the role of the Local Authority as a Corporate Parent:
'For children and young people who we need to take care of as their Corporate Parent, we will ensure the same standard of care as any good parent, which means we will have high aspirations and will be strong advocates for them' CYP01: Child Friendly City, Bristol City Council Corporate Strategy 2022–2027.

City Benefits:

1. Partnerships: Partnership working is a key building block in the strategy. The priorities included touch on all aspects of life for care experienced children and young people and connect to the work of a range of partner organisations.
2. Equity and Inclusion: There are significant health, education and employment inequalities in adulthood for people with care experience. Achieving the outcomes set out in the strategy will improve outcomes in a range of domains contributing to the reduction of inequality across the life course and an increase in civic engagement and participation.

Background Documents:

1. [Bristol's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2029](#)

2. Local Government Association (2023), *Must Know: Children's services guide to effective cross-council working*. [Cross-Council Working Must Know – A Children's Service's LGA guide, Feb 2023](#)
3. Department for Education. (2018) *Applying Corporate Parenting Principles to Looked-After Children and Care Leavers: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities*.
[Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
4. Department for Education. (2023) *Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation Children's Social Care Reform*
[Children's social care stable homes built on love consultation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Revenue Cost	£ 0	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£ 0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> If yes - existing or new saving? Choose an item. OR Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	

Professional comments:

1. Finance Advice: There are no direct financial implications arising from the content of this report, however this programme is influential upon service provision, and as such any and all implications arising will need to be managed within the available funding envelopes to those areas of service provision.

Finance Business Partner: Travis Young 24 January 2025

2. Legal Advice: This is an update to the Corporate Parenting Strategy which was signed off in July 2024. The progress noted in the report is in line with the strategic guidance and our corporate responsibilities. As such, at this time, there are no further legal comments to make.

Legal Team Leader: Rebecca Davies – Child Protection Legal - Team Manager 5 February 2025

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect 27 January 2025

4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications of this report because it is an update for information only.

HR Partner: James Brereton (Head of Human Resources) 17 February 2025

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
A1 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-29	
A2 Corporate Parenting Strategy Delivery Plan	
A3 Corporate Parenting Strategy Engine Room Terms of Reference	
A4 Corporate Parenting Strategy Scorecard Q3 2024/25	
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	NO
Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment	NO
Appendix D – Decision Risk Assessment	NO
Appendix E – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix	NO
Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis	NO