

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL &
HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 29 MARCH 2012

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: ANNUAL UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING
ACTIVITY

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.00 To provide an update to members on activity surrounding the corporate parenting responsibilities of the County Council which were first set out in "Circles of Care – Corporate Parenting in Flintshire"

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In March 2005 the Welsh Government issued a guidance document to all county councillors in Wales ("IF THIS WERE MY CHILD...") which set out their key responsibilities as corporate parents to children in their care.

2.02 In April of that year Flintshire launched its corporate parenting forum known as the Children's Services Forum to ensure that the responsibilities enshrined within the guidance document were promoted and fulfilled.

2.03 The guidance document was revised and reissued in 2009 and the Children's Services Forum has continued to meet to discuss the council's collective responsibility to provide care and protection to its looked after children and to recommend and promote activities to meet its aims and objectives.

2.04 Membership of the Forum includes elected members, senior officers and currently four young people who are or were looked after by this local authority. The membership of the Forum has been reviewed recently to mirror the intent to include representation from all political groupings and a foster carer representative. BCUHB have also expressed an interest in joining the forum, this has been supported and will commence shortly.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The last update report was provided to Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 4th April 2011 but following discussions it was agreed that a report to the joint scrutiny committee was more in keeping with the ethos of shared responsibility to corporate parenting.

3.02 Appendix 1 provides the annual activity update and there are associated embedded documents for information.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Committee consider the report on activity.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 A current budget allocation exists to support corporate parenting activity including the work of our participation groups and the annual Pride of Flintshire Awards.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 An ongoing commitment by this county council to the aims and objectives set out in "IF THIS WERE MY CHILD...." will ensure that our looked after children are not disadvantaged by poverty.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly as a result of this report .

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Four young people representatives from the Speaking Out for Children in Care Group and the Care Leavers Support Network are standing members of the Children's Services Forum.

11.02 Regular participation groups are held and "Speak Out" events for the wider looked after children/care leaver population.

11.03 The Children's Services Forum will also be considering this report at a future meeting and using this and any feedback from the Joint Scrutiny meeting to inform its forward work programme.

12.00 **APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix one - report on Corporate Parenting

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

"If this were my child...." (2009)

Circles of Care: Corporate Parenting in Flintshire (Policy, Strategy and Action Plan)

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