

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 23 October, 2017**

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure**

### **Corporate Parenting Panel**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide for the reappointment of the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Corporate Parenting Panel be reappointed, with its membership comprising 3 Conservative Members and 1 Member from each of the Labour, Plaid Cymru and Llantwit First Independent Groups.

#### **Reason for the Recommendation**

To facilitate the ongoing role of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

#### **Background**

2. 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 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.

#### **Relevant Issues and Options**

3. 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.
4. Corporate parenting responsibilities can be delivered only when there is 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. Chaired by the Executive Lead Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure (whose portfolio includes Children's Services), the Panel consists of Elected Members, senior Officers and a care experienced young person representative.

5. 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 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.
6. In terms of the size of the Panel, as there is no longer an Independent Group on the Council, it is suggested that the Panel be reduced from 7 to 6 Members, i.e. 3 Conservative, 1 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru and 1 Llantwit First Independent.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

7. There are no resource implications arising directly out of this report.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

8. There are no sustainability and climate change implications arising directly out of this report.

### **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

9. 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.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

10. None.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

11. None.

### **Corporate/Service Objectives**

12. This report ties to the Corporate Well-being outcome of an Active and Healthy Vale as well as the approach to integrated planning in view of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

### **Policy Framework and Budget**

13. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

### **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

14. This is an internal matter and, therefore, no external consultation procedure is necessary.

### **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

15. Healthy Living and Social Care.

## **Background Papers**

Report to Cabinet: 30th July 2012.

## **Contact Officer**

Jeff Wyatt, Operational Manager - Democratic Services

## **Officers Consulted**

Director of Social Services

Head of Children and Young People Services

## **Responsible Officer:**

Managing Director