

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 07 June 2021
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:	Matthew Swindell, Cabinet and Committee 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"> To seek Cabinet approval regarding the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel following the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Meeting, held on 10th May, 2021. 	

Recommendation

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.

Reason for Recommendation

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.
- 1.2 The re-appointment of the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel was further agreed by Cabinet on 17th June, 2019 (Min. No. C20) and has remained unchanged during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 Children Looked After 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 has agreed a schedule of meetings for the year 2021/22 and discussed items for inclusion as part of its ongoing Work Programme which is driven and informed by the Members of the Panel.

- 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: 17th June, 2019 -

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2019/19-06-17/Corporate-Parenting-Panel.pdf>