

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 3rd September, 2010
3.	Title:	Corporate Parenting Strategic Review
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

A review of Corporate Parenting Structures was undertaken by the Looked After Children’s Scrutiny Sub Panel between November 2009 and March 2010.

This Review has been considered by the Cabinet, who accepted the Scrutiny Sub-Panel Recommendations. An Action Plan is attached for consideration.

6. Recommendations

That the report is received and the recommendations in the action plan endorsed.

7. Proposals and Details

The Rotherham M.B.C. Corporate Parenting structure was developed in 2005 following a comprehensive Scrutiny review of provision. Ofsted inspections of Children’s Services in Rotherham since then have consistently viewed Corporate Parenting as a strength.

A full review of Corporate Parenting was undertaken in November 2009 to March 2010 by the Looked After Children’s Scrutiny Sub Panel, utilising a Corporate Parenting Toolkit developed by the National Children’s Bureau. The report recommended modernising the arrangements in line with the Government Agenda and with Ofsted Inspection expectations. A proposed Action Plan was developed and has been subject to scrutiny from the Senior Leadership Team. The Action Plan, including recommendations, is attached.

8. Finance

The financial implications of each action have been fully considered within the report. All are nil or minimal costs (associated with administration), with the exception of a recommendation to enhance the Council Celebration of our Looked after Children's achievements, through the development of an annual large celebration event, as opposed to the current 2 yearly event.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Progression with the actions as contained within the attached plan will ensure that Rotherham M.B.C. continues to evidence best practice in respect of Corporate Parenting. If we do not progress these actions we risk our Corporate parenting structures being viewed as out dated.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Actions in this report have implications for judgements made within Ofsted Inspections of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services and associated inspections.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Care Matters
Care Planning, Placement and Review Draft Regulations and Guidance
Ofsted inspection Guidance
Rotherham M.B.C. Corporate Parenting Review 2010

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