

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 28 April 2026

Report Title

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report accompanies the first annual report of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to the work of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board 2025. It showcases the work completed to deliver our duty as a Corporate Parent. The purpose is to set out how the Council delivers consistent high-quality care and how the Council, with partners, support opportunities for Children in Care, Care Leavers, and supports them with progressing key priority areas including placement sufficiency and youth participation. This Annual Report also summarises progress by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board against the Corporate Parenting Strategy and sets out priorities for 2026.

Recommendations

1. That Improving Lives Select Commission note the progress made by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board in 2025.
2. That Improving Lives Select Commission note the areas of focus for 2026.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report 2025

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Corporate Parenting Panel – 24 March 2026

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report

1. Background

- 1.1 Children and Young People Services have produced the first annual report of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board which is shared alongside this report as an appendix.
- 1.2 The report aims to highlight the work of the board, the successes in 2025, the scrutiny function and governance of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan and the areas of focus for 2026.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined in legislation corporate parenting duties for local authorities. It noted that local authorities must act as the best parents possible for children in their care, ensuring stable, positive experiences, and support for care leavers, including published offers for their transition to adulthood.
- 2.2 The Corporate Parenting Duty places a legal obligation on public bodies to act as responsible parents for children in care and care leavers, ensuring their stability, well-being, and opportunities. Ensuring these children achieve similar outcomes as their peers, with a focus on education, health, and becoming independent adults, supported by specific duties under the Children Act 1989 and other acts.
- 2.3 During 2025 there was a redesign of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. The motivation for this refresh was to enhance corporate ownership and give the board and improved presence. The revised model also ensured a dynamic approach to progressing the action plan and in turn outcomes for children and young people. Throughout 2025 there has been a consistent commitment from senior officers and members who have met regularly. Children and Young People Services would also like to place on record their gratitude to Democratic Services for their support.
- 2.4 Children's Social Care were subject to an inspection by Ofsted in November 2025. The outcome of this inspection was exceptionally positive with an overall judgement of 'Outstanding'. The published report notes "There is a strong and embedded commitment to corporate parenting and the rights of children and young people, underpinned by a strategic vision that translates into tangible action" in relation to corporate parenting.
- 2.5 The inspection also highlighted "The redesign of the corporate parenting partnership board creates meaningful opportunities for children to hold leaders to account alongside groups such as the 'In Care Voice' (children in care group) and 'Look Ahead' (care leavers group), young inspectors and young journalists, who also have real impact".
- 2.6 Children and Young People Services will have a continued dynamic approach to the action plan associated with the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board

to ensure that the actions and areas of focus align to the current needs of Children in Care and Care Leavers. This will be informed by quality assurance activity, feedback from children and young people and external review.

2.7 Areas of specific focus for 2026 include:

- Improve Pathway Plans for Care Leavers,
- Ensure Care Leavers have access to Health Passports,
- Continue to improve local sufficiency for Children in Care.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Members are asked to note the progress of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board.

3.2 Members are asked to note the areas of focus for 2026.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Not applicable.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Not applicable.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are clear risks associated to not delivering effective care and support to Children in Care and Care Leavers. This includes reputational risk and the associated individual implications for children and young people.

13.2 To ensure that the identified scheme of work is delivered there is strong governance and oversight system which includes monthly review by actions owners which is overseen by the Service Director. The action plan and exceptions report are also presented to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board at each meeting.

Accountable Officer(s)

Stuart Williams, Service Director

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services	01/04/26
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Cusworth	01/04/26

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