



**Walsall Council**

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

Meeting to be held on: **Monday 3 July, 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

Meeting to be held: Council House, Walsall.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Chair: Councillor Elson  
Vice Chair: Councillor Jukes  
Councillor Hicken  
Councillor Latham  
Councillor Waters  
Councillor Worrall  
Vacancy

### **ADVISOR**

(NHS Walsall CCG)

**Note:** Walsall Council encourages the public to exercise their right to attend meetings of Council, Cabinet and Committees. Agendas and reports are available for inspection from the Council's Democratic Services Team at the Council House, Walsall (Telephone 01922 654369) or on our website [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk).

## ITEMS FOR BUSINESS

1.	<b>Apologies</b>	
2.	<b>Substitutions</b>	
3.	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2023.</b>	<u>Enclosed</u>
4.	<b>Future Governance of Corporate Parenting Board</b>	<u>Enclosed</u>
5.	<b>Setting a Work Programme</b> To consider priorities identified by young people at the engagement session and agree a work programme for the Board.	<u>Verbal</u>
6.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Monday 4 September 2023.	

## Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Prescribed description</b>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

## **Access to information: Exempt information**

### **Part 1**

#### **Descriptions of exempt information: England**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
  - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
  - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
  - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
  - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

**Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference room 2, Walsall Council House**

### **Board Members Present:**

Councillor S. Elson (Chair)  
Councillor. Jukes (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor I. Hussain  
Councillor Worrall

### **Officers Present**

Colleen Male	Director, Children's Social Work
Jivan Sembi	Head of Service (Children in Care, Provider and Care Leaving Services)
Lorraine Thompson	Head of Virtual School
Michael Morris	Principle Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)
Alison Jones	Designated Nurse LAC (Walsall ICB)

### **22/23 Welcome**

At this point in the meeting, the Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. She also noted that the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

### **23/23 Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Hicken and A. Hussain

### **24/23 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

### **25/23 Minutes**

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023, were submitted.

(see annexed)

### **Resolved (Unanimous)**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023, copies having previously been circulated to each member of the Board, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **26/23 Engagement Session with Young People action plan**

The Head of Service (Children in Care, Provider and Care Leaving Services) presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Board were reminded that on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Members met with 14 young people in care who set out areas for development that they would like to see progressed. The report set out the proposed action plan, which was developed following the meeting with the children in care council, and care leaver's forum. An update on progress against the action plan would be provided to the Board in July.

### **Resolved**

That the Engagement Session with Young People action plan was noted.

### **27/23 Performance monitoring (Quarter 3)**

The Director (Children's Social Work) presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Board was informed that the number of children in care was stable; it was noted that information presented on page 19 indicated that there was a deterioration in performance – in order to rectify this work would be done on placement sufficiency. It was suggested that performance in this area would improve once the new children's residential homes were operational.

The Designated Nurse stated that there was a discrepancy with the data presented to the Board and the data available to the Integrated Care Board, and that work was under way to further understand this and amend the way that data

was presented. The development of a dental pathway was described, and the positive affect that this should have.

### **Resolved**

That the performance monitoring (Quarter 3) was noted.

### **28/23 Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report**

The Principle Independent Reviewing Officer presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Board was informed of the role and purpose of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), which enabled more effective independent oversight and scrutiny of the child's case.

The primary task of the IRO was to ensure that the care plan for the child fully reflected the child's current needs, and ensured those actions in the care plan are consistent with the legal responsibilities towards the child. Members were informed that the statutory duties of the IRO were:

- Monitor the performance by the local authority of their functions in relation to the child's care journey.
- Participate in any review of the child.
- Ensure that any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child are given due consideration.
- Perform any other function which is prescribed in regulations.

The Board was assured that in 2022, 91% of child in care reviews were held in timescale with the majority of other delays due to sickness of the social worker or IRO, which created slight delay in the meeting being held. It was expected that an improvement in this performance would be seen in 2022/23 as work had been done with the IRO in terms of recording reviews to ensure that they reflected timeliness. Priorities for 2022/23 were described and would be reported on in the next annual report.

In response to questions from Members, the Principle IRO informed Members that children were encouraged to participate in their care plan – operating virtually had allowed some children to participate where otherwise they may not have.

### **Resolved**

That the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report was noted.

### **29/23 Independent Visiting Service Annual Report**

The Principle IRO presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). Members were informed that an Independent Visitor was a trained volunteer who was there to “befriend and support children and young people in

care". An Independent Visitor could be a significant person in a child's life where there may be few constant or stable relationships, or Independent Visitors may be important and significant for a child at a particular point in their lives. As of March 2023 there were 14 children matched to an Independent Visitor with a further 11 referred and awaiting allocation, which would achieve the current proposed target of 20 children in care with an Independent Visitor.

### **Resolved**

That the Independent Visiting Service Annual Report was noted.

### **30/23 CPB Annual Report**

The Board considered the draft Corporate Parenting Board Report.

### **Resolved**

That the Corporate Parenting Board be approved for submission to Council.

### **31/23 Future of Corporate Parenting Board**

The Director (Children's Social Work) presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed) and stated that the report sought to review the future governance arrangements of Corporate Parenting Board. The history of the Board was described and the reasons for the proposal, which included a 'good' Ofsted judgement, the development of the Board with children at its heart, difficulties when meeting in the public domain, and to allow openness with sensitive matters. As such, members were asked:

- To support proposals to de-establish Corporate Parenting Board as a Council Committee Meeting.
- To support a report going to Annual Council Meeting on 22.05.2023 requesting permission to de-establish Corporate Parenting Board as a Council Committee Meeting.
- That if agreed a full report with revised Corporate Parenting Board terms of reference to be presented to the first meeting of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year.
- That the future overview and scrutiny of services to be delivered to children in care and outcomes to be achieved to be the responsibility of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There then followed a series of questions from Members, the Director (Children's Social Work) confirmed that private information could be provided to the disestablished Board. A Member asked for careful consideration in relation to clarity of function between the proposed Corporate Parenting Board and the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. Additional challenge was provided in relation to membership and the allocation of political seats.



The Director (Children’s Social Work) stated that a working group would be established to further consider such issues and Members would be invited to be part of this group.

Resolved

- The proposal to de-establish Corporate Parenting Board as a Council Committee Meeting was supported.
- The submission of a report going to Annual Council Meeting on 22 May 2023 requesting permission to de-establish Corporate Parenting Board as a Council Committee Meeting was supported.
- That if agreed a full report with revised Corporate Parenting Board terms of reference to be presented to the first meeting of Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year.
- That the future overview and scrutiny of services to be delivered to children in care and outcomes to be achieved to be the responsibility of Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....

**Title of the Report; Future Governance of Corporate Parenting Board**

**Portfolio: Children's Services**

**1. Aim**

To review the future governance arrangements of Corporate Parenting Board.

**2. Recommendations**

- To support proposals to de-establish Corporate Parenting Board as a Council Committee Meeting.
- To support a report going to Council requesting permission to de-establish Corporate Parenting Board as a Council Committee Meeting.
- That if agreed a full report with revised Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference to be presented to the first meeting of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year.
- That the future overview and scrutiny of services to be delivered to children in care and outcomes to be achieved to be the responsibility of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**3. Consultation with Young People**

If these proposals are supported by the board, then future arrangements will be informed by views of children in care and care leavers. Children and Young People to at the heart of future arrangements and future proposals.

Conversations with children and young people have already commenced and The Children in Care Council recently described themselves as just a '*reference group*', this is a powerful statement and one we are seeking to address.

We need to consider with the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum how we can make Corporate Parenting Board more participatory and as we move forward for them to be co-producers.

The Board recently met with children and young people to explore their priorities for the year to inform an annual work plan. This will mean that the work of the Board is more focused and informed by their views and the things that are important to them.

**4. Report detail – know**

Please refer to attached PowerPoint presentation.

**5. Financial information**

No financial considerations.

**6. Reducing Inequalities**

Corporate Parenting Board seeks to secure improvements in the equality of services, which, when achieved will have a positive impact on our most vulnerable children, young people and their families

**7. Decide**

Corporate Parenting Board to consider if they support the proposals to de-establish Corporate Parenting Board as a Council Committee Meeting or whether they would advocate for Corporate Parenting Board remaining as a Committee Meeting.

**8. Respond**

These proposals will be considered at Annual Council Meeting on 22.05.2023.

**9. Review**

If new proposals are accepted then oversight, scrutiny and review of the Corporate Parenting Board would sit with Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Author**

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