

Full Council 1st December 2021

Report Title	Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2020-21
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List of Appendices

Appendix A - Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2020-21

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This is the Annual Report of the Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board for 2020-21.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The report is structured as follows:

- **Foreword.** From Cllrs Fiona Baker and Scott Edwards.
- **Executive Summary.** Summarising the report as a whole.
- **Governance and Statutory Context.** Sets out the legal underpinning of corporate parenting, and the structure and role of the Board, including in light of the creation of the Trust and creation of two unitary councils.
- **Life During Lockdown.** Sets out actions taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **The Voice of Children and Young People.** Celebrating the work of our participation groups for young people and showcases some of their artwork.
- **Our Pledge and what we have achieved.** Gives a narrative update in regard to progress against each section of the Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers. Some headline data is included.
- **The Fostering Service.** Updates activity undertaken in the fostering service over the year. Includes some headline data.
- **The Adoption Service.** Updates activity undertaken in the adoption service over the year. Includes some headline data.
- **NCC Children's Homes.** Brief overview of the purpose and activity of each of the NCC children's homes, including the new ones.

- **Commissioning Services.** Sets out the work of our commissioning services, such as monitoring accommodation providers and embedding new service developments.
- **Workforce development.** Details some of the activity that is taking place to ensure the Trust has a stable and able workforce.
- **Demographics.** The demographic makeup of our children in care, including ethnicity, legal status, and placement types.
- **Northamptonshire Children’s Trust Improvement Plan.** As updated in April 2021.
- Staffing, lower staff turnover and caseloads and positive feedback from staff surveys.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Full Council:

- (i) Note the contents of the Annual Report.

Reason for Recommendations:

That all members recognise their role as corporate parents.

4. Report Background

4.1 The report sets out the role, structure, and activity of the Board, specifically in terms of our progress against the Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers. The report also details the work of the Children in Care and Care Leavers’ Councils, the Fostering and Adoption Services, Commissioning Services and NCC children’s homes. Demographic information about our population of children in care and care leavers is also provided, with comparative data for the previous year, along with details of the Children’s Services Improvement Plan.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 No decisions are required. Please see the Annual Report

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals. Comments from Emily Taylor, Strategic Finance Business Partner, West Northants: “There are no financial implications contained within the report as far as I can see so nothing to sign off from a financial perspective. Of course, the financial performance of the Trust services in 20/21 spanned both NCC for 7 months and the new organisation being delivered via a contract for an agreed sum and the financials have been reported through WNC through the Provisional Outturn report that went to September Cabinet, and previously through NCC cabinet”

6.2 **Legal**

6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

6.3 **Risk**

6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the report.

6.4 **Consultation**

6.4.1 The report was submitted to and agreed by the Corporate Parenting Board on the 30th of September. The Board includes the Trust CEO, Director of Children's Services for the Trust and two councils, and both cabinet members for Children and Families.

6.5 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 N/A

6.6 **Climate Impact**

6.6.1 N/A

6.7 **Community Impact**

6.7.1 The report considers the safety and wellbeing of Northamptonshire children in care and care leavers, including those living out of county.

7. Background Papers

7.1 N/A