

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**SERVICE RESPONSE TO PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT ON CORPORATE PARENTING AND SERVICES TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the actions taken in response to the People Scrutiny Panel Report on Corporate Parenting and Services for Looked After Children and Young People in North Lincolnshire.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 During 2012, the People Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of Corporate Parenting and Services to Looked After Children, the subsequent report was presented to cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Minute 990 (14).
- 2.2 People's Service welcomes the findings of the panel and the positive comments in the report. The report identified areas for further development and, in response to these, an action plan has been put into place to ensure continued improvement in the delivery of services.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The panel reported that it is clear "that corporate parenting and services for children and young people in care are performing very well locally, and should act as a model of best practice for others".
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Panel also made four recommendations for further development. The action plan in response to these recommendations is attached as an appendix to this report.

**4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Please see attached action plan.

**5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications in this report.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 None in this report.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Scrutiny Panel consulted children and young people who are in the care of North Lincolnshire Council. The panel stressed the importance of listening to what they have to tell us. The panel also visited officers at their workplaces and discussed their views and ambitions for the future of the service.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet welcomes and supports the progress on the actions outlined.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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Date: 26 October 2012

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

Action Plan in response to the People Scrutiny Panel Report - Corporate Parenting and Services for Looked After Children and Young People September 2012

**Action Plan in response to the People Scrutiny Panel Report - Corporate Parenting and Services for Looked After Children and Young People September 2012  
Updated January 2013**

<b>Scrutiny Recommendation</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Date to Complete</b>
The panel is aware that work is still required to ensure that all sections of the council are fully engaged with the Corporate Parenting Pledge. The panel therefore recommends that the council ensures that each Directorate, section and team within the authority are fully committed to the Corporate Parenting Pledge, and are acting on the responsibilities that arise from this in a co-ordinated manner.	Each Directorate has nominated a champion and these report to the Children In Care Strategy Group.	Service Manager for Young Peoples Accommodation Support Team	January 2013 .
Through the Children's Trust Board, the panel further recommends that all identified external partners are also supported to fully commit to the Corporate Parenting Pledge, and are acting on the responsibilities that arise from this in a co-ordinated manner.	Children's Services will present the findings of the Scrutiny Report to the Children's Trust Board and invite other agencies to commit to the Corporate Parenting Pledge for Children.  Agency action plans are monitored via the Children In Care Strategy group	Assistant Director Children's Service	February 2013.  This was presented to the Children's Trust Board on the 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2012 and support given by Chief Officers to seek individual agency actions to support the pledge.
The panel recommends that the council, in cooperation with its partners, commits to a long-term vision of supporting young people to live independently, instead of instilling dependency. The levels of independence will naturally vary according to the young person's specific circumstances, but maximum independence should be the overarching aim.	Foster Carers and Children's Home's staff will be offered refresheres to ensure all are aware of minimum standards to achieve in preparing all young people for adult living.  The newly formed Young People's Accommodation Support team will encourage and support young people to be independent .  The new Children's Campus will enable further support to independence.	Service Manager for Young Peoples Accommodation Support Team	Children Home staff have completed refresher training. Training for the fostering service (staff and carers) will take place in February 2013.  This Accommodation Support team is now fully established and is working with young people to encourage and support their independence.  The plans to build the Children's Campus are in progress.
The panel recommends that the Director for People should present a short report on any required actions arising from recent CQC / Ofsted reports into safeguarding and looked after children, and fostering, to the People Scrutiny Panel by December 2012.	Present a report to the scrutiny panel.	Director for People	The request to update the Scrutiny panel has been submitted and an update on the actions from the CQC/Ofsted Inspection will be presented to the People Scrutiny Panel on 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2013