



You can view the agenda on the [website](#)
or use a smart phone camera and scan the code

To: The Chair and Members of the Children's
Scrutiny Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 1 November 2021

Contact: Stephanie Lewis 01392 382486

Email: stephanie.lewis@devon.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 9th November, 2021

A meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee is to be held on the above date at 10.30 am at Council Chamber - County Hall to consider the following matters.

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

8 **Corporate Parenting Strategies** (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services covering Devon's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2024 and Devon's Sufficiency Strategy 2022-2024, attached.

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS

Getting to County Hall and Notes for Visitors

For SatNav purposes, the postcode for County Hall is EX2 4QD

[Further information about how to get to County Hall](#) gives information on visitor parking at County Hall and bus routes.

Exeter has an excellent network of dedicated cycle routes. For further information see the [Travel Devon webpages](#).

The nearest mainline railway stations are Exeter Central (5 minutes from the High Street), St David's and St Thomas. All have regular bus services to the High Street.

Visitors to County Hall are asked to report to Main Reception on arrival. If visitors have any specific requirements, please contact reception on 01392 382504 beforehand.

Membership of a Committee

For full details of the Membership of a Committee, please [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and click on the name of the Committee you wish to see.

Committee Terms of Reference

For the terms of reference for any Committee, please [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and click on the name of the Committee. Under purpose of Committee, the terms of reference will be listed. Terms of reference for all Committees are also detailed within Section 3b of [the Council's Constitution](#).

Access to Information

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or background papers relating to an item on the agenda should contact the Clerk of the Meeting. To find this, [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and find the Committee. Under contact information (at the bottom of the page) the Clerk's name and contact details will be present. All [agenda, reports and minutes of any Committee are published on the Website](#)

Public Participation

The Council operates a Public Participation Scheme where members of the public can interact with various Committee meetings in a number of ways. For full details of whether or how you can participate in a meeting, please [look at the Public Participation Scheme](#) or contact the Clerk for the meeting.

In relation to Highways and Traffic Orders Committees, any member of the District Council or a Town or Parish Councillor for the area covered by the HATOC who is not a member of the Committee, may attend and speak to any item on the Agenda with the consent of the Committee, having given 24 hours' notice.

Webcasting, Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings

The proceedings of any meeting may be recorded and / or broadcasted live, apart from any confidential items which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. For more information [go to our webcasting pages](#)

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chair. Filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible without additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard to the wishes of others present who may not wish to be filmed. Anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance.

Members of the public may also use social media to report on proceedings.

Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council

It is to be noted that Members of the Council must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

WiFi

An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall.

Fire

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately by the nearest available exit following the fire exit signs. If doors fail to unlock press the Green break glass next to the door. Do not stop to collect personal belongings; do not use the lifts; and do not re-enter the building until told to do so. Assemble either on the cobbled car parking area adjacent to the administrative buildings or in the car park behind Bellair.

First Aid

Contact Main Reception (Extension 2504) for a trained first aider.

Mobile Phones

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Committee Room or Council Chamber

Alternative Formats

If anyone needs a copy of an Agenda and/or a Report in another format (e.g. large print, audio tape, Braille or other languages), please contact the Customer Service Centre on 0345 155 1015 or email: committee@devon.gov.uk or write to the Democratic and Scrutiny Secretariat in G31, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

Induction Loop available



Devon's Corporate Parenting and Sufficiency Strategies 2022-2024

Report of the Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing and the Senior Manager for Corporate Parenting

Background

For children and young people in care, and care leavers (relevant and former relevant), every local authority has unique responsibilities to support them to be feel safe, well and cared for. In carrying out their roles, the whole Council, including all its staff and elected Members, should consider those children and young people as their own. This is our duty to be effective and responsible corporate parents. We outline our vision, principles, and commitments for corporate parenting in Devon in our new Strategy.

We also have a legal duty to publish our plans for how we will support children to remain safely with their families at home wherever possible, as well as how, for those children and young people who do come into care, we will provide sufficient, suitable, and stable accommodation and support. This is known as the 'Sufficiency Duty'. Our Sufficiency Strategy sets out these plans.

Summary

Our vision is for all children and young people in Devon to have the best start in life and the opportunity to thrive. This means they receive the right support, at the right time, and in the right place.

The Sufficiency Strategy describes how we will do this by working restoratively with children and families to build on their strengths and resilience and help them remain safely at home together. We know that children who are safe and well with their families, and who do not come into our care, achieve better outcomes in life. Not only does this improve the lives and experiences of those children and young people, but it also ensures social care services are more sustainable to meet the needs of present and future populations.

For children and young people who need to come into our care, and care-experienced young adults after leaving care¹, we want to be the best possible corporate parents. This means securing their immediate protection from harm and supporting good health and wellbeing, including promoting recovery and resilience after trauma and neglect. However, it is also about being aspirational and ambitious for care-experienced young people to get the most out of life and be independent and thrive as young adults.

Our vision for corporate parenting and our commitments to ensuring sufficiency should be considered together. Both support each other's aims for children and young people to be safe, well and achieving in life. Safety and stability at home, especially while living in care, underpins good outcomes in all aspects of children and young people's lives. As such, sufficiency is a fundamental part of being the best possible corporate parents.

The strategies cover the three-year period of 2022-2024.

The voice of children and young people

Putting the views and interests of children and young people at the heart of all that we do in Devon underpins our approach to corporate parenting and sufficiency. Our vision and strategic plans for corporate parenting and sufficiency in Devon have been developed out of what care-experienced children and young people have told us about their lives and experiences of care.

We have heard from young people over the last 18 months, both through our regular participation groups and in engagement events with strategic leaders, about their experiences living in care. These events have included 'Building Back Better for Devon's Care leavers in October 2020 and the DCFP Executive's 'Our Lives with COVID-19 and What Next' in June 2020. In addition, the Brightspots survey 2020/21, despite a lower than anticipated return, has provided valuable insight into the lives, wellbeing and experiences of children and young people in our care.

Young people have also produced '[The Promise](#)', which is a set of commitments, under five principles, which we promise to do for all children in care. If a child or young person feels that we are not following a promise,

¹ young people, aged 18-25, who are eligible for leaving care services (relevant and former relevant care leavers)

Agenda Item 8

CS/21/15
Childrens Scrutiny
9 November 2021

they are able to discuss this with their foster carer, social worker or IRO. The Promise forms the basis of how we want to be and act as corporate parents in Devon.

Shared ambitions

Corporate parenting is a shared endeavour, across public sector agencies, and with our providers. Our Corporate Parenting Strategy has been co-developed alongside partner agencies who are signed up to our vision and commitments. We will work together with them to ensure we are doing all we can to support care-experienced children and young people, appreciating the particular role we have as corporate parents and the unique position in law and society that children and young people in care and care leavers occupy. Given the important role they play in the lives of the majority of children and young people in care, foster carers are also committed to our vision and values of corporate parenting. We will continue to support them to do this.

Governance and delivery

Corporate parenting

Strategic governance for the Corporate Parenting Strategy will be to the Corporate Parenting Strategic Partnership Board. The Board will provide strategic oversight of the delivery of the vision and commitments of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and will monitor outcomes for care-experienced children and young people. To do this effectively, representatives of care-experienced young people will be members of the Board to make sure their lived experience is continually informing and shaping the strategic delivery of our responsibilities as corporate parents.

Reporting to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, four operational sub-groups will work to agreed delivery plans: These groups are as follows:

- A place called home
- Health, wellbeing and identity
- Education, employment and training, and independence
- Participation, engagement and co-production

Safety and protection from harm will be a cross-cutting theme across all operational groups.

Each sub-group will report annually to the Partnership Board, which will focus on a theme every quarter. This will include tracking progress against the delivery plan, hearing the views and experiences of children and young people, and understanding the difference the strategy is making in their lives. The operational groups will be multi-agency and remain sufficiently close to practice.

The governance structure can be found on page 41 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Sufficiency

The Place Called Home Programme Board will provide the governance for the Sufficiency Strategy. The workstreams of the Programme cover each of the four areas of the Strategy, including the delivery and tracking of relevant actions and outcomes.

Scrutiny and the role of Members

As and when required, the Head of Service for Children's Social Care, on behalf of the Strategic Partnership Board, will report to the Children's Scrutiny Committee on the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and outcomes for care-experienced children and young people in Devon. The Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing will report to the Children's Scrutiny Committee on the delivery of the Sufficiency Strategy and outcomes for care-experienced children and young people in Devon.

Members will play both a role as scrutineers, as well as fellow corporate parents. In this context, Members will provide support and challenge as part of the Corporate Parenting governance structure. This is key in ensuring our corporate parenting duties are truly Council-wide.

Agenda Item 8

CS/21/15

Childrens Scrutiny

9 November 2021

In addition, we are currently arranging opportunities for Members to meet our children and young people, in early 2022, to talk with them about what it is like to grow up in Devon today and their experiences of living in care. We hope this will bring the voice of children and young people through scrutiny.

