

**Corporate Parenting/Children's Champion**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report is designed to update the Executive in relation to key issues regarding Corporate Parenting and the role of the Children's Champion.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the content of the report and the appointment of Councillor Devon as the Children's Champion for Argyll and Bute.
- 2.2 To endorse the values and principles contained within the overview report of Corporate Parenting and to agree to a further report being submitted in relation to the Improvement Service Corporate Parenting briefing for Elected Members.

**3. DETAILS**

- 3.1 Further to the report submitted to the Executive on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Councillor Devon has been confirmed in the role of Children's Champion. Councillor Devon has begun to take up duties from the late summer and an initial work programme has been established. This will focus initially on Councillor Devon meeting looked after children across the authority to begin to gain a perspective on the key issues for our young people.
- 3.2 To facilitate the start of this engagement an overview of the key issues in respect of Corporate Parenting has been drawn up. This has been designed to update the previous discussion of this function for members and to provide a set of principles to assist in the authority developing its role as a Corporate Parent (appendix 1).
- 3.3 The Improvement Service have also published a briefing note in respect of Corporate Parenting for Elected Members (appendix 2). This guide helpfully identifies the key issues that members should consider in fulfilling their roles in this area. The intention is that officers along with Spokesperson for Social Work and the Children's Champion use the note to draw up a detailed report with which the key questions from the note are answered from an Argyll and Bute perspective.

This report will be presented to the Executive at the end of 2010.

#### 4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The appointment of a Children's Champion has assisted the authority in further fulfilling its responsibilities as a Corporate Parent. The publication of the Improvement Service note provides a useful structure for this to be examined further and a full report in response to this will be submitted to the Executive late in 2010.

#### 5. **IMPLICATIONS**

*Policy:* The development of the role of Children's Champion is in line with both national and local policies to promote the welfare of looked after children

*Financial:* Financial implications are limited to travel expenses for the member identified as the Children's Champion

*Legal:* This role is complementary to the duties of the council as laid out within the Children (Scotland) Act 1995

*Personnel:* None

*Equal Opportunities:* The Children's Champion will assist in promoting the interest of young people who are potentially disadvantaged

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