

Wiltshire Council

Annual Council

16 May 2017

Proposed Amendments to Parts 11A and 11B of the Constitution

Purpose

1. For Council to consider the proposed amendments to Part 11A of the Constitution, Corporate Parenting Strategy and Part 11B of the Constitution, Role and Function of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel.

Background

2. Wiltshire Council has a legal duty to act as a good and effective Corporate Parent to children and young people in its care. Wiltshire Councillors are required to understand their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parents.
3. The Corporate Parenting Panel is the primary vehicle for Councillors to meet with key officers and to challenge and scrutinise the performance, quality and efficacy of Wiltshire Council services, and comprises up to 8 councillors politically balanced and nominated by group leaders.
4. The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel as well as setting out the council's duties and approach in respect of Corporate Parenting generally, and is included within the constitution at Part 11A.
5. The Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel was established to secure councillor involvement and commitment throughout the council to deliver better outcomes to ensure that all Wiltshire children and young people are safe. It was established following an Ofsted report in 2012.
6. The Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel is comprised of up to 8 councillors politically balanced and nominated by group leaders.

Main Considerations

7. The Corporate Parenting Strategy contains an introduction from the Children in Care Council, a body comprised of young people in or from Care who are engaged with regularly by the Corporate Parenting Panel. Since the strategy was approved, the Children in Care Council have discussed the introduction with the council and in consultation with the Corporate Parenting Panel an amended version was agreed.
8. Council is requested to approve the proposed change. Furthermore, as it is an introductory section which does not impact upon any council body terms of reference or responsibilities, it is requested that authority be delegated to the

Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Children's Services, to make any further amendments to the section that may be requested in the future.

9. Pa11 B of the Constitution sets out the responsibilities, functions and administration details for the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel. Since its creation the operation of the Panel has been adjusted slightly, along with the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group having concluded its work.
10. Council is requested to approve minor revisions to the terms of reference of the Panel, in particular to note that the Chair of the Panel is to be the Lead Cabinet Member for Children's Services or their designated representative, should they not be the same person.

Proposal

11. That Council:

- 1) To approve the proposed changes to Part 11A of the Constitution as detailed in Appendix 1; and to delegate any future changes to introductory sections to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services.**
- 2) To approve the proposed changes to Part 11B of the Constitution as detailed in Appendix 2.**

Carolyn Godfrey

Corporate Director
