

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
25 JULY 2007**

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**CORPORATE PARENTING POLICY**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To familiarise members with the work of the Corporate Parenting Group in developing a draft Corporate Parenting Policy.

**Background**

2. Initial discussion took place at the November 2006 and March 2007 meetings of the Corporate Parenting Group to consider how the group might approach the task of ensuring a robust approach to the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibility.
3. In addition a seminar to consider the roles and responsibilities of members took place in February 2007. This helped to inform consideration of the issues.
4. Members of the Corporate Parenting Group have been clear in their wish to take forward this agenda and to secure the understanding and support of members across the Council and with other Council departments.
5. The Cabinet Member for Children & Families and officers attended a conference on Effective Corporate Parenting in April which was helpful in considering the development of arrangements in Wiltshire.
6. Whilst the Corporate Parenting Group had agreed terms of reference and working arrangements in November 2006, further discussion has led to a conclusion that a Corporate Parenting policy should be in place for Wiltshire, to serve as a foundation for work undertaken in relation to corporate parenting responsibilities.
7. In June 2007 the Government issued a White Paper – Care Matters: Time for Change. This is concerned with heightening awareness of the needs of children in care and includes proposals to support government aspirations to improve outcomes for all children in the care system. Corporate parenting is a key theme within the White Paper.

**Development**

8. A draft Corporate Parenting Policy is attached for members' consideration. This attempts to highlight the importance of members' roles and the potential approach which might be promoted by such a policy within the national policy framework context. The document also

serves as a basis to 'bring together' in one document the policy which might underpin this authority's approach. The impact of the proposals set out within the Government White Paper – Care Matters are also under consideration in relation to this policy.

9. The Corporate Parenting Group has agreed a timetable in working towards this policy being adopted by the Council. This includes consultation with the Corporate Leadership Team, highlighting to Council by the Cabinet Member for Children & Families in July, and consultation with the Children Services Scrutiny Committee in July. Cabinet will be requested to consider the policy document in September with a view to seeking Council approval in November 2007.

### **Proposal**

10. Members are invited to consider the draft policy document and to provide any comments or observations which they would wish the Corporate Parenting Group to take account of in finalising the draft document.

**CAROLYN GODFREY**

**Director of Department for Children & Education**

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