

## Management Committee

Date: 16 March 2022



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## Corporate Parenting Board - Nomination of Replacement Chair

### 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request CPP Management Committee to confirm the next Chair of the Argyll and Bute Corporate Parenting Board, as the current Chair, Councillor Devon, is not standing for re-election in the May 2022 Local Government elections.

### 2.0 Recommendations

The CPP Management Committee are asked to confirm a new chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, to lead the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Plan and to support and challenge all Corporate Parents to deliver on their responsibilities and the transformation for care services as envisioned by The Promise.

The Board may wish to consider delegating the appointment to Argyll and Bute's Children Strategic Group.

### 3.0 Background

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced a number of statutory duties on all Corporate Parents, with 24 Scottish public bodies identified in legislation as Corporate Parents.

The Argyll and Bute Corporate Parenting Board was established in 2013 and currently meets quarterly to provide leadership and direction to the Corporate Parents of Argyll and Bute in working together to improve the outcomes and maximise the life opportunities for all our care experienced children and young people. The Chair is appointed by the CPP and currently Cllr Mary – Jean Devon; who is not standing for re-election in the May 2022 elections. There is no requirement for the Chair to be an elected member.

The Argyll and Bute Corporate Parenting Board includes the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, Argyll and Bute Council, NHS Highland, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Children's Hearings Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Third Sector Interface (TSI) and Who Cares? Scotland to name but a few.

The Board is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of the Argyll and Bute Corporate Parenting Plan which details how our Corporate Parenting

responsibilities will be met and how we will improve the lives and outcomes for our care experienced children and young people, including care leavers.

Since the establishment of the Board the importance of working to ensure that every care experienced child has the care and support they need to thrive has been given ever greater emphasis with the publication of the Care Leavers Covenant in 2018, the National Care Review in 2020 and subsequently The Promise, with its challenge to deliver a far reaching 10 year transformational change of the Scottish care system, and of community services to those at risk of coming into care and their families, parents and carers.

#### **4.0 Detail**

The Corporate Parenting Board currently meets quarterly and considers Corporate Parents progress in meeting their duties and responsibilities, maintains an awareness of national policy and other changes which may impact on care experienced children and oversees the implementation of the Corporate Parenting plan. Recently the Board begun to receive and consider representations from our care experienced participation groups.

The Board has been meeting virtually throughout covid restrictions and there has been limited potential for the chair or other corporate parents to engage directly with care experienced children and young people, it is hoped that this will change this year.

The Argyll and Bute Corporate Parenting plan 2021-24 identifies 4 strategic improvement priorities for the next 3 years, developed through self-evaluation and informed by The Promise and the Care Leavers Covenant. These are the key areas where the Board is determined to make significant changes and improvements specifically for and with care experienced children, young people and adults:

1. We respect and include our children and young people - helping ensure they shape and inform all we do, and that we promote approaches that build on their and their families' and carer's strengths and assets
2. We ensure our children and young people grow up in safe, secure, nurturing and significantly less and loving homes and we promote and maintain positive relationships
3. We support our children and young people to achieve their potential through lifelong learning, growth and development and the enjoyment of positive mental and physical wellbeing
4. We help ensure our young people move to a positive more independent life when they are ready and we support them on their journey to independence

These priorities are supported by a range of agency actions over the next 3 years which are detailed in the Plan. The full Plan is available at

[https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/nhs\\_cpp\\_2021-sm.pdf](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/nhs_cpp_2021-sm.pdf)

The Corporate Parenting Plan contributes to delivery of outcome 4 and as such sits within the overall structure of integrated children's services planning. The Corporate

Parenting Board reports to the Community Planning Partnership via the Argyll and Bute's Children Strategic Group.

Since its establishment in 2013 the size and complexity of the strategic challenge to Corporate Parents and to the Board has grown exponentially. While the Care Leavers Covenant continues to drive a transformation of services for care leavers, The Promise has placed itself at the centre of a major transformational change agenda for Scotland's Care system, to improve community supports to children and families so that fewer children in Scotland need to grow up in care and to ensure that those who do grow up in care can all receive the care, nurturing, love and support every child needs to thrive. This involves a transformation of services, of attitudes and values, of our workforce and of the scaffolding we put around families, communities and children. The Promise is anticipated to continue to be a key driver of change and to influence, shape, drive and challenge Corporate Parents to deliver far reaching transformational change through to 2030 and beyond.

In seeking to start to improve the voice and influence of care experienced people in the development and delivery of policy and planning, as envisioned in The Promise, in 2021, the Corporate Parenting appointed our first Care experienced Co Chair and committed to increasing the involvement of care experienced children young people, and adults in the work of the Board. It is anticipated that the new Chair will need to support the Board in developing new ways of working with care experienced children young people and adults to shape inform and drive the work of the Board and the delivery and development of the Corporate Parenting Plan.

## 5.0 Conclusions

Cllr Devon has been a strong chair of the Corporate Parenting Board for many years and has demonstrated a depth of understanding, interest, care for and commitment to care experienced children and young people across Argyll and Bute and her leadership will be missed.

The CPP now needs to identify a suitable replacement who can match Cllr Devon's personal commitment and provide the leadership and challenge to Corporate Parents to deliver not only on their corporate parenting duties but also the Corporate Plan and to support the wider transformation of our care system and deliver on The Promise in Argyll and Bute.

## 6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	Key role in contributing to delivery of strategic priorities for Outcome 4
Consultations, Previous considerations	Establishment of Board and appointment of chair by CPP agreed in 2013
Resources	None
Prevention	None
Equalities	None

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