

Item No. 13	Classification: Open	Date: April 2 2009	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Workplan 2009/10	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Richard Blakeley, Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee consider items for the workplan for the next municipal year (2009-10).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. The constitution for the municipal year 2008 to 2009 records the corporate parenting committee's role and functions are as follows.
 1. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
 2. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan
 3. To seek to ensure that the life chances of looked after children are maximised in terms of health educational attainment, and access to training and employment, to aid the transition to a secure and productive adulthood.
 4. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
 5. To recommend ways in which more integrated services can be developed across all council departments, schools and the voluntary sector to lead towards better outcomes for looked after children.
 6. To ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable looked after children and young people to play an integral role in service planning and design, and that their views are regularly sought and acted upon.
 7. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.
 8. To receive an annual report on the adoption and fostering services to monitor their effectiveness in providing safe and secure care for looked after children.
 9. To report to the council's executive on a twice yearly basis.
 10. To make recommendations to the relevant executive decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the executive.
 11. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children's services after each meeting.
 12. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Agenda in 2007-8 and 2008-9

3. The Corporate Parenting Committee is about to complete its second municipal year. In its first two years, the committee has considered
 - A framework for health and education outcomes (with regard to CLA)
 - mental health services spend allocation
 - children looked after and apprenticeship programmes
 - statutory education examination results
 - facilitating access to higher education
 - the legal duties and framework in respect of children looked after
 - issues pertaining to unaccompanied minors
 - health, substance use and teenage pregnancy
 - the support for child trust funds amongst children looked after
 - the virtual headteacher pilot
 - adoption and kinship policy
 - the adolescent and aftercare service; and
 - looked after children and offending.

4. The committee receives an annual report on adoption and fostering services and independent review officers service, quarterly reports on performance indicators for children looked after, regular reports from the speakerbox service for children looked after, ad hoc statistical analyses and the outcome of statutory service inspections.

Policy

5. The policy agenda has been measured against the government's five "Every Child Matters" outcomes [Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Well-Being] and the committee's programme of work has largely been in tune with this.

6. The committee may wish to consider a programme that takes in to account policy developments arising from the government's response to the recent report from Lord Laming, following the "Baby P" case in Haringey and the recent findings from the Joint Area Review which identified the following areas for improvement of Southwark's service to children looked after:
 - The long-term stability of placements
 - Developing a written commissioning strategy
 - An underdeveloped partnership with the Youth Offending Team
 - Improved evaluation of initiatives.

Future agenda items

7. The following agenda items for the next municipal year have been drafted prior to this meeting's discussion about the committee agenda for this year. The committee is asked to consider other future items.

June 2009 (date to be confirmed)

- Appointment of Non-Voting, Co-opted Members and Invitations to Attend Meetings

September 2009 (date to be confirmed)

- GCSE examination results
- Annual review of Independent review officers service
- Children looked after (CLA) performance indicators 2008-09 and 2009-10 Quarter 1

November 2009 (date to be confirmed)

- Annual report on the adoption and fostering services
- Children looked after (CLA) performance indicators 2009-10 Quarter 2

February 2010 (date to be confirmed)

- Children looked after (CLA) performance indicators 2009-10 Quarter 3

April 2010 (date to be confirmed)

- Children looked after (CLA) performance indicators 2009-10 Quarter 4

To be allocated:

- Commissioning strategy
- Partnership with Youth Offending Team
- Evaluation of initiatives
- Speakerbox service updates

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

8. The work of the corporate parenting committee contributes to community cohesion and stability.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no extra resource needs foreseen at this stage.

CONSULTATION

10. None.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

11. None required.

APPENDICES

12. None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Minutes of meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee	Constitutional Team	Richard Blakeley 020 7525 7232

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director: Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding	
Report Author	Richard Blakeley, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	March 24 2009	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Director of Finance	No	No
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team		March 24 2009