

Item No. 7	Classification: Open	Date: June 18 2008	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Workplan 2008/2009	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee notes the work of the corporate parenting committee in 2007-8
2. That the corporate parenting committee consider items to add to the new workplan for the municipal year 2008 to 2009 listed in paragraph 10.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

3. 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.

Every child matters

4. The public policy agenda is measured against the government's five "Every Child Matters" outcomes which are
 - Be Healthy
 - Stay Safe
 - Enjoy and Achieve
 - Make a Positive Contribution
 - Achieve Economic Well-Being

Agenda in 2007-8

5. The corporate parenting committee has explored themes relating to each of the "every child matters" outcomes in the last year.
6. Subjects on which the corporate parenting committee has received a report in the last municipal year include reports on a framework for health and education outcomes, mental health services spend allocation, apprenticeship programmes, statutory education examination results and facilitating access to higher education [Health; Economic well being]. There have been reports on the Southwark Fostering Service, the legal duties and framework in respect of children looked after and the speakerbox service for children looked after [Positive contribution]. The committee also received reports on unaccompanied minors and looked after children and offending [safety].
7. The committee receives quarterly reports on performance indicators for children looked after, ad hoc statistical analyses and the outcome of statutory service inspections.
8. The committee's joint meetings with Speakerbox have focused on support for children looked after with regard to accessing higher education, borough leisure facilities and access to specialist nurses [enjoyment, achievement, well being].
9. This meeting (June 4 2008) considers drug use and teenage pregnancy amongst children looked after [health] and how the authority can support the child trust fund initiative [economic well being].

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Future Meetings

10. The following meeting dates and agenda items for this 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.

7pm, September 4 2008

- Joint Area Review
- GCSE examination results
- Care matters implementation plan and review
- Children looked after Performance Indicators 2007-8 and 2008-9 Quarter

7pm, November 19 2008

- Report on adoption and fostering services
- Children looked after Performance Indicators 2008-9 Quarter 2

7pm, February 3 2009

- Children looked after Performance Indicators 2008-9 Quarter 3

7pm, April 2 2009

- Agenda items to be identified

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The continued work of the corporate parenting committee informs policy development.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

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

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no extra resource needs foreseen at this stage.

CONSULTATION

None.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

None required.

APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Minutes of meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee, September 10 2007	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	June 3 2008
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		June 9 2008