

Corporate Parenting Committee

Monday 4 November 2013

2.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2A, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair)
Councillor Eliza Mann (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Rowenna Davis
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Althea Smith
Barbara Hills
Carolyn Martin

Reserves

Councillor Poddy Clark
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Helen Hayes
Councillor Lisa Rajan

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

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Access

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Contact

Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395 or Email: paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 25 October 2013



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Corporate Parenting Committee

Monday 4 November 2013

2.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2A, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting.

PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE THEME

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members to declare any interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.

5. MINUTES

1 - 3

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 17 July 2013.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
6.	PUPIL PERFORMANCE IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013 - DEVELOPMENTS LINKED TO THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - EDUCATION TEAM	4 - 6
7.	2012/13 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	7 - 9
8.	CORPORATE PARENTING AND THE VOICE OF THE CHILD IN CARE	10 - 13
9.	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DFE) SPOTLIGHT CARE HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL CARE PowerPoint presentation to the corporate parenting committee.	
10.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2013/14	14 - 16

ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

ANY OTHER CLOSED BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 25 October 2013



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Althea Smith
Carolyn Martin

OFFICERS PRESENT: Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care
Alasdair Smith, Acting Head of Service Children Looked After
Jackie Cook, Head of Social Work Improvement and Quality Assurance
Lucy Milich, Children's Rights and Participation Officer
Shirley Walker, Interim Service Manager
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barrie Hargrove and Barbara Hills.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as present were confirmed as the voting members.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. FEEDBACK FROM SPEAKER BOX AND SPEAKER BOX ACTION PLAN

The committee watched a film of young people in the out of borough placement, Kirby Moor, Cumbria (educational and residential facility). The film showed interviews with these young people where they shared their experience of what it was like to live out of borough, providing an insight to their thoughts and providing questions for professionals and members at Southwark.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following documents be welcomed and noted:
 - The Speaker Box mission statement
 - Speaker Box work areas and achievements 2012-13
2. That the 2013 -14 children's service participation action plan (including those actions set out in the report) to be completed and presented to the committee for approval.
3. That officers provide a list of placements to members of the corporate parenting committee for looked after children in out of borough placements and their geographical location.

7. CHARTER FOR CARE LEAVERS

RESOLVED:

1. That the information in the report be noted and the adoption of the Charter for Care Leavers supported.
2. That the committee monitor and review the impact of the recently agreed housing lettings policy on young persons (care leavers), including those with young children.

8. PROGRESS REPORT IN RESPECT OF FOSTERING RECRUITMENT

RESOLVED:

That the information provided in the report be noted.

9. CORPORATE PARENTING AND THE VOICE OF THE CHILD IN CARE

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle confirmed that she had responded to the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families setting out the council's response and action to the points listed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, to all lead members for children and the directors of children's services be noted.
2. That the director children's social care brings forward a report to the next corporate parenting committee setting out how Southwark has addressed each of the points made in the letter.

10. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2013/14

RESOLVED:

1. That the work plan for 2013/14 for the corporate parenting committee as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be noted.
2. That the committee receive a report to its April 2014 meeting with regard to the issue of sexual exploitation of young persons.

Meeting ended at 3.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 November 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Pupil Performance in Academic Year 2012-2013 - Developments Linked to the Looked After Children Education Team	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Education	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee is asked to note the information in the report.
2. To feed back any comments to the relevant officer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Department for Education (DfE) should publish national performance data in December 2013 for children looked after (CLA)¹ based on a cohort of pupils in care for at least 12 continuous months as at 31 March 2013².
4. The corporate parenting committee has requested a report on pupil attainment in advance of the DfE published data. Key Stage 2 data is available and outcomes are reported below. Key Stage 4 data is not yet available; LAC Education Team continue to collect individual learners results. A report will follow the DfE's data release in December, supported by individual narratives.
5. Key Stage 2 performance data is reported below in a way that echoes current DfE reporting methodology. Changes to DfE testing means that year-on-year comparisons are only available for maths.
6. Small cohort sizes make meaningful interpretation problematic. CLA cohorts are changeable in nature, due to (for example) significant variations in pupil care histories, numbers of school and care placement changes, education history, diagnoses of SEN and education attainment on entry to care.
7. An interim position statement regarding data collection is included in this paper.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. **Attainment at Key Stage 2:** Of the 13 children looked after for a year or more at 31 March 2013, 53.8% of children achieved level 4 or above in maths (an improvement on 50% in 2012), reducing the gap slightly with all Southwark pupils by 3.6%. A like-for-like comparison with English performance is not available as testing regimes have changed this year.
9. **Progress Key Stage 1- Key Stage 2:** For the first time, we are able to access a national pupil database which captures pupils' academic history irrespective of a

¹ Attainment data for LAC who have been matched to the National Pupil Database.

² National and London figures sourced from DfE publication: 'Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at March 2013'.

child's date of entry to care. Where data is available, we are able to measure pupil progress from Key Stage 1 to 2. According to the data available, 65% of pupils made two levels of progress.

10. **Attainment at Key Stage 4:**

Of the 47 children looked after for a year or more at 31 March 2013, 46.8% achieved five or more GCSEs (or their equivalence) at grades A* to C, an increase of 15.8% on the previous year.

11. According to the data collected, just over 23% achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and maths, a drop of three percentage points on 2011 results (latest available DfE comparison). In 2013, 27.65% of the cohort achieved English and maths at C grade or above, compared with 26.2% in 2011.

12. In 2013, 72.3% of pupils achieved 5+ A* – G.

13. **Development of Looked After Children Education Team:** Since reporting to corporate parenting committee in February 2013, there has been further realignment of the looked after children (LAC) education team, driven by organisational restructuring and legislative change. The job description of the new post: manager, priority learners, includes strategic responsibilities to LAC Education. An interim team leader oversees operational management of the team. A post has been created to address the Raising Participation Age agenda, to promote the effective participation of all 16 and 17 year olds. This will add strength to Southwark's performance at the post-compulsory education phase.

14. In academic year 2013/14, LAC education team has stepped up its expectation for quality support to pupils from schools. It will:

- Send a letter to headteachers, designated teachers and Governors to raise awareness of new entrants to Southwark children looked after service
- Introduce a targeted approach for improvement in learning outcomes to 10 pupils with the greatest attainment gap.

15. **Interim position statement with regard to data collection:**

- a. Over the past 18 months the LAC Education Team has brought sharper focus to pupil, and school-level, data availability and accuracy. This has led to better pupil tracking and monitoring, bringing increased rigour and currency to Personal Education Plans.
- b. Data collection via the third party agency (Welfare Call) has been extended to include all pupils from Year R to Year 12. Pupil progress data is collected, where available, on a termly basis, directly from the education provider.
- c. This year, the Key Stage 2 SATs results for 23 pupils were collected directly from the school by LAC Education Team, within seven days of results being published. This was practicable as Key Stage 2 SATs results are published at a time during the academic year when schools are open, fully staffed and equipped to furnish information.
- d. GCSE results at Key Stage 4 have not been collected in the same way. GCSE results are published during school summer holidays. It is not practicable to collect results for 73 children from 48 education providers, at a time when schools are not fully staffed or equipped to respond to this

level of enquiry. It is important to remember that we do not have an automatic right to know the details of pupils' GCSE results; a pupil does not have to consent to sharing this information.

- e. Welfare Call have collected GCSE (and Key Stage 4 equivalents) results on our behalf from secondary schools. Social Workers have complemented the process collecting missing information via Foster Carers.
- f. A new database will be introduced in December 2013, provided by 'Schools Opt-In'. LAC Education Team will encourage schools to make best use of the direct input facilities, to add further to data currency and integrity.

16. **Community impact statement**

The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of service provision will impact on children looked after from all communities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Merril Haeusler, Director of Education		
Report Author	Liz Britton, Manager, Priority Learners		
Version	Final		
Dated	23 October 2013		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services		No	No
Director of Legal Services		No	No
Cabinet Member		Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer			23 October 2013

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 November 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		2012/13 End of Year Performance Report – Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee notes this report.
2. That the committee discuss how they wish to take forward any issues arising, with a particular focus on adoption performance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. This report relates to 2012/13 end of year performance, and provides benchmarking where possible.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. In Southwark there were 565 children looked after as at 31 March 2013, which was a 2.7% increase over the last 12 months, nearing 2008 levels. The number and rate of children looked after has now increased for each of the last two years, this is in contrast to the statistical neighbour and London averages which have shown year on year decreases for the last four years. It is not possible to comment on whether this is good performance or needing improvement, entry to care is based on the needs of the child or young person.
5. Southwark, contrary to statistical neighbours and London, shows an increasing trend in number of children coming into care. This year's 10.5% increase (309 children) is double that of statistical neighbours (4.9%) and triple the London average (3.7%).
6. Children ceasing to be looked after during the year was up 17.3% (303 children), well above statistical neighbours (5.2%) and London (4.1%). 44% of children ceasing to be looked after are 16 years or over, which was similar to London (41%). This latter figure reflects the fact that young people leave care at 18.
7. The majority of our care leavers (91%) are in suitable accommodation, showing an improvement on last year. The proportion of care leavers not in education, employment and training has remained the same at 40%.
8. Performance on stability for length of placements and 3 or more placement changes shows a declining trend. A slightly higher proportion of children have had 3 or more placement changes in 2012/13 increasing from 12.7% to 13.6%. This is still within the good performance band. The slight increase in percentage is affected by the high proportion of babies in care proceedings. This can result in a number of placements in a short period of time as children and parents move in and out of assessment placements and foster care. Nearly two thirds (62.6%) of children looked after continuously for 2.5 years were in the same placement for at

least 2 years compared to 66.1% in 2011/2012. This data is still being cleansed however, and work to date suggests performance is much higher, but this is yet to be confirmed.

9. Reviews on time have improved in the last 12 months with 96% of children having their LAC reviews completed on time. Child care reviews are a statutory requirement and are undertaken by the Independent Reviewing Officer Service. The IROs ensure that child care plans are progressing to timescale and that children are well looked after and safeguarded within their placements.
10. A slightly lower proportion of children have been placed within 20 miles of their home (71% compared to 74%).
11. There has been a significant improvement in the adoption performance in the past year. Currently 16 children have been adopted and a further 27 are placed for adoption. The latter group is awaiting the final adoption order application which has to be made by the prospective adopters. We also have 39 prospective adopters in assessment which is the highest figure in the past 5 years.
12. Adoptions remains a priority in Southwark and the local Adoption and Permanence Taskforce chaired by the director of specialist services has taken forward a number of actions to continue improving permanency planning, family finding and reforming practice in some areas this year. A senior permanence advisor has been appointed to lead on the new permanence strategy, recruitment and training of staff, to ensure that performance is sustained for the future.
13. An evaluation of campaign activity was recently conducted and found that using a range of media helped to raise the profile of Southwark's adoption service and also increase the recruitment of new adopters.
14. Specifically, the 'Finding 40 Families' campaign, which included a £1,000 incentive for community groups willing to help recruit adopters was successful in increasing the number of enquiries from black and mixed heritage people. This is important because in the past adoptive parents from these ethnic backgrounds have been lower than expected.
15. Over the last 3 years 22 children had a decision to adopt changed to long-term fostering, and although there has been a slight improvement in the three year average for BME adoptions, annually we show a slight decline. Part of our recent campaign has been targeted at local faith and community groups to stimulate greater prospective adopter interest in these children. For older children adopted both the annual and the three year average shows a decline in trend.
16. Nationally, data is measured on a 3 year average, so overall our performance will still show the need for improvement despite the current year's successes. The 3-year average for timeliness in A1 (average time in days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted) and A2 (average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family, for children who have been adopted) also is over the national threshold. Timeliness data is distorted by those older children who are adopted by their foster carers. This is then reflected in the A10 figure. However, annual improvements show a considerable decrease in the average days for both measures. Adjusting for foster carer adoption for timeliness in A1 (A10) continues to show better performance than national.

17. Southwark was highlighted to have the highest number of children awaiting adoption in London and was in the bottom quartile nationally for performance last year. Our end of year performance shows 45 children waiting for adoption, more in line with Lambeth, Newham and Haringey 2012 performance. However, it must be noted that Southwark has one of the highest rates of care proceedings in London, and that many of these children entering care are babies. We would therefore expect a higher proportion of children where adoption was the plan.
18. The number of views of 'hits' on Southwark's adoption web pages has also gone up. For instance, after placing compelling and informative adverts in the Metro and Evening Standard newspapers in June 2013 there were almost 2,000 hits to the council's adoption web pages. This is an increase from 800 hits in May 2013.
19. In the coming months the service will be using Acorn, a customer segmentation tool, to analyse the characteristics of those making adoption enquiries and those who go on to adopt. This analysis will be used to identify gaps and to improve how we market directly to prospective adopters.

Community impact statement

20. The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of these services has a strong impact on children looked after from all communities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children’s Social Care		
Report Author	Monika Ciurej, Performance Information Analysis Manager		
Version	Final		
Dated	22 October 2013		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			22 October 2013

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 November 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Children's and Adults Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee notes the measures that have been put in place to meet the requirements set out in the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, to all Lead Members for Children and the Directors of Children's Services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 5 June 2013, Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, wrote to all Lead Members for Children and Directors of Children's Services about the importance of strong corporate parenting and embedding the voice of the child in care in local practice.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The letter highlights the importance of members and senior officers taking responsibility for outcomes for children across a range of areas including education, health and welfare.
4. The areas highlighted for attention in the letter are listed below:

Children in Care Councils

5. At the heart of every system should be the voice of the child in care. Speaker Box provides support to looked after children and care leavers, targeting those aged from 8 to 24 years. It ensures that they have a voice; that the messages from consultation are heard and acted on by decision-makers. Speaker Box operates independently, and is run by those in care and care leavers. It is supported by our children's rights officer, children's services practitioners, senior managers, elected members and other agencies including health and youth services. Ofsted has recognised Speaker Box as an example of outstanding practice. Regular meetings are held between Speaker Box and members and senior officers.

Role of Independent Reviewing Officers

6. IROs in Southwark are experienced and well-trained so that they can fulfil their responsibilities in relation to oversight of care plans for looked after children. The service ensures that statutory reviews are held on time and that the quality of planning and provision is maintained to a high standard. The activities of the

IROs are governed by statutory guidance known as the IRO handbook. The head of service provides an annual report to the DCS and Corporate Parenting Committee which highlights some of the major themes emerging over the previous year. The IROs provide oversight of children in care and can act on behalf of children and young people when there is a dispute over the care plan.

7. The IROs meet regularly with Speakerbox to hear how they can improve the service. As part of their role, they also meet with children and young people outside of the review meeting so that they can take their wishes and feelings into consideration.

Advocacy

8. We employ a full-time children's rights worker who actively seeks out the views of children and young people in care, and supports Speakerbox, our children in care council. As part of her work programme, the children's rights worker is undertaking a programme of visits to children placed in residential care to feedback their views and address any of their concerns. In addition, we have commissioned an independent advocacy service from Barnardo's
9. Advocacy plays a critical role in enabling children and young people to safeguard themselves by exercising their rights, as outlined in the United Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and specifically in relation to having their voice heard when key decisions are being made. Local authorities are under a statutory obligation to provide an independent professional 'voice' or advocate, for every looked after child and young person, care leaver and child in need, who wants to take part or comment on decisions about their lives or to make a complaint.
10. The service will:
 - Have as their core purpose better outcomes for children and young people
 - Provide advice, information and advocacy services, for all children and young people, who request or need this service
 - Provide effective assistance and support to children and young people who wish to make a representation or complaint to children's services
 - Provide assistance and support to children and young people who wish to make a disclosure or allegation of child abuse to children's services, as well as during any resulting child protection investigation
 - Provide access to the helpline for all children and young people
 - Make every effort to take account of the wishes of the child in respect of racial, religious and cultural background and any special requirements relating to the gender of the Advocate
 - Provide children and young people with opportunities to influence the development of children's services in the borough
 - Provide advocacy for children and young people attending family group conferences; looked after review and other official meetings
 - Ensure children and young people with specific language and communication needs are allocated appropriate advocacy
 - Contact the Southwark Service Lead each time the provider wants to appoint an Advocate to a case and expect a response from Southwark within 24 hours.

11. Southwark complies with the statutory requirements to freeze a placement should a child or young person object to the move. All children are supported by the children's rights officer, advocate or IRO, to ensure that moves do not take place until the issue is resolved.

Keeping children informed

12. There are a number of ways in which the department keeps children informed. IROs meet with children outside the formal review meeting and keep them up to date with developments. This is also a key part of the social workers role. However in addition to this the Speakerbox magazine is distributed to all children in care on a quarterly basis. This includes advice and information and a list of contact numbers should young people feel the need to seek independent advice and advocacy. This includes information about the ChildLine number so that young people can have access to a counsellor should need it. The adolescent and aftercare service has also launched a website which provides information, advice and support for young people, and details what their entitlements are.
13. Southwark has a number of measures in place to ensure that children and young people in their care have a clear voice which is heard by both members and senior officers. There are a number of safeguards in place to provide them with advocacy and support should they feel their views are not being heard by the service. Through our effective communication with children and young people, the department will continue to develop the service in response to the wishes and feelings of young people in care and care leavers.

Policy implications

14. There are no new policy implications relevant to this report.

Community impact statement

15. The report has set out how Southwark has addressed the points in the letter identifying any relevant community impact implications.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background papers	Held At	Contact
Letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families "Corporate Parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care."	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=4559&Ver=4

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director Children’s Social Care		
Report Author	Rory Patterson Director Children’s Social Care		
Version	Final		
Dated	22 October 2013		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			22 October 2013

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 November 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2013/14	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children's Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2013/14 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. The constitution for the municipal year 2013/2014 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 cabinet on a twice yearly basis.
 10. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
 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

3. The corporate parenting committee agreed on 7 July 2010 to move towards thematic meetings and has followed this framework since.

Policy implications

4. The policy agenda has been measured against the five “Every Child Matters” outcomes: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Well-Being. The committee’s programme of work has been developed on these themes.

Future agenda items

5. The following work plan sets out themes for future meetings.

4 November 2013

Enjoy and Achieve Theme

- Key Stage 2 results and confirmed GCSE results
- Report from the Virtual Head Teacher
- Mid year performance review
- Pupil performance. Interim position statement with regard to data collection (requested 26 February 2013)
- Corporate parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care. Report back on how Southwark has addressed each of the points in the letter.

25 February 2014

Be Healthy Theme

- Young People’s Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2013 -14
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Carelink
- Annual Report from Designated Doctor for Children Looked After.

July 2014

Stay Safe Theme

- Initiatives being undertaken to effect continuous improvement within the safeguarding and looked after children service (requested 26 February 2013)
- Annual report on fostering services
- Children in Care and Youth Offending
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report
- Report back to review the impact of LASPO on the council in terms of workload and cost (requested 29 April 2013 meeting)
- Placement and Stability
- LAC who go missing from care and placed out of borough
- Issue of sexual exploitation of young persons.

September 2014

Economic Wellbeing Theme

- Adolescent and After Care Service
- NEET Strategy (Not in Education, Employment or Training) (including university support, apprenticeships, coaching, drop-in services, connexions, Southwark Works, training partnership)

- Impact of welfare reform on looked after children, providing detail of case studies (requested 26 February 2013).

Ongoing/monitoring

6. Performance monitoring. Committee to receive report/s of any significant variations evident from the monthly performance review of looked after children and care leavers services.

Community impact statement

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

Resource implications

8. There are no specific implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Minutes of meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children’s Social Care		
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	22 October 2013		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included	
Director of Legal Services	No	No	
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No	
Cabinet Member	No	No	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		22 October 2013	

CORPORATE PARENTING DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-14**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Paula Thornton Tel: 020 7525 4395

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
Membership		Constitutional Team	
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	1	Paula Thornton	9
Councillor Catherine Bowman	1		
Councillor Rowenna Davis	1		
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	1		
Councillor Eliza Mann	1		
Councillor Wilma Nelson	1	Total:	29
Councillor Althea Smith	1		
Reserves		Dated: 4 July 2013	
Councillor Poddy Clark	1		
Councillor Patrick Diamon	1		
Councillor Helen Hayes	1		
Councillor Lisa Rajan	1		
Co-opted members			
Barbara Hills	1		
Carolyn Martin (external)	1		
Children's Services			
Romi Bowen	1		
Rory Patterson	1		
Alasdair Smith	1		
Patricia Rowe	1		
Liz Britton	1		
Legal			
Sarah Feasey	1		