

# Corporate Parenting Committee

Monday 9 July 2018

2.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2C, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

## Membership

Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)  
Councillor Evelyn Akoto  
Councillor Jon Hartley  
Councillor Eliza Mann  
Councillor Sunny Lambe  
Councillor Catherine Rose  
Councillor Charlie Smith  
Florence Emakpose (Co-opted Member)

## Reserves

None

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## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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### 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

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

### Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. Further details on building access, translation, provision of signers etc for this meeting are on the council's web site: [www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk) or please contact the person below.

### Contact

Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395 or email: [paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk)

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Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

**Eleanor Kelly**

Chief Executive

Date: 29 June 2018



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# Corporate Parenting Committee

Monday 9 July 2018  
2.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2C, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

## Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	<b>MOBILE PHONES</b>	
	Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting.	
	<b>PART A - OPEN BUSINESS</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
	A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR</b>	
	To elect a vice-chair for the 2018-19 municipal year for the corporate parenting committee.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT</b>	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b>	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>	1 - 4
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 28 February 2018.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY (2018-2022)</b>	To follow
<b>8.</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17</b>	To follow
<b>9.</b>	<b>OFSTED INSPECTION OF 'SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS' - POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN UPDATE</b>	To follow
<b>10.</b>	<b>UPDATE ON CHILD PROTECTION PLAN INCREASES</b>	To follow
<b>11.</b>	<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2018-19</b>	5 - 9

**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: 29 June 2018



## Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 28 February 2018 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)  
 Councillor Jasmine Ali  
 Councillor Eliza Mann  
 Councillor Renata Hamvas  
 Councillor Kath Whittam  
 Councillor Catherine Rose  
 Florence Emakpose, Co-opted Member (Non-voting)

**OFFICER SUPPORT:** Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families  
 Helen Woolgar, Children's and Adults Services  
 Dr Stacy John-Legere, Designated Dr for Looked After Children  
 Angela Brown, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children  
 Andrew Fowler, Children's and Adults Services  
 Liz Britton, Children's and Adults Services  
 Daisy May-James, Social Worker, Children's and Adults Services  
 Laverne Noel, Southwark Virtual School  
 Usha Singh, Headteacher, Southwark Virtual School  
 Susan Malkin, Children and Young People's Health Partnership (CYPHP)  
 Anto Ingrassia, Children and Young People's Health Partnership (CYPHP)  
 Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kieron Williams.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Renata Hamvas.

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

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

No urgent items were identified.

### 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Jasmine Ali declared an interest with regard to Item 9 on the Foster Care in England report by virtue of her employment as a fostering policy adviser. This was not a disclosable pecuniary interest

No other disclosures of interests or dispensations were made.

### 5. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

### 6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (CYPHP) LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WORKSTREAM

Anto Ingrassia (Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist) and Sue Malkin (Transformation Manager) from the Children and Young People's Health Partnership (CYPHP) made a presentation to the committee outlining:

- What is CYPHP
- Services that CYPHP provides
- Work so far and training for personal advisors, outlining challenges faced
- Vision for future work which include promoting health in its broadest definition, addressing health inequalities, and learning from the looked after child nurse.

Stacy John-Legere, Designated Doctor for looked after children explained that the health partnership is a Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT) charity funded for a period of four years providing added value and focusing on specific areas. A key factor being that the work needs to be sustained within existing resources.

Some issues and questions arising from the presentation:

- Training and structured modules (with particular regard to mental health)
- Personal adviser training and how links with care leavers
- Mental health provision and focus on 9 – 14 year old age group and how care leavers included
- Use of acronym LAC and request to use words “looked after child / child in care”
- Education select enquiry and recommendation of mental health champion but no funding.

**RESOLVED:**

That the progress made by the Children and Young People's Health Partnership (CYPHP) to support the priority to improve services for looked after children and care leavers be noted.

**7. OFSTED INSPECTION OF 'SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS' - POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN**

The director, children and families updated the committee with regard to the progress of the action plan with particular emphasis to the amber status actions on the plan.

**RESOLVED:**

That the progress on the Southwark post inspection action plan as considered by cabinet on 19 September 2017 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

**8. ANNUAL VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER'S REPORT**

Stacy John-Legere offered assistance in respect of the identification of special education needs and disabilities (SEND) in primary school children and how this could be built into assessments.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the virtual headteacher's report for Southwark looked after children be noted.
2. That the next annual report be received in Autumn 2018.

**9. FOSTER CARE IN ENGLAND - A REVIEW FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION BY SIR MARTIN NAREY AND MARK OWERS - VERBAL UPDATE**

The committee received a presentation from officers in respect of this report published.

The report published on 6 February 2018 set out 36 recommendations. Officers outlined work already being undertaken in Southwark including:

- Celebration of foster carers and the campaign to identify more positive and good news stories
- Recruitment events and using foster carers expert knowledge
- Secure base model - adopted in 2015
- Delegation of authority and decisions undertaken at beginning of the fostering processing to ensure that foster carers can give permission for day trips and so on
- That foster carers have as much information as possible on the child
- Education throughout the year so that foster carers can support children
- Training for foster carers around therapeutic play
- Affection and how Southwark foster carers already feel supported in this area
- Matching – key priority for Southwark and celebration of permanent placement

- Fostering activity day and children more involved
- Bright spots and confirmation already happening in Southwark
- Contact and siblings – already working on.

**Summary of issues and comments arising:**

- Discussions around Independent Reviewing officer (IRO)
- Independent Foster Agencies (IFA) and
- Commissioning arrangements.

**10. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2017-18**

**RESOLVED:**

That the work plan be noted. It was agreed that the two items scheduled for the next meeting on 23 April 2018 could reasonably wait until the July 2018 meeting. It was agreed therefore that the April meeting would not take place.

The meeting ended at 4.05pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

<b>Item No.</b> 11.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 9 July 2018	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2018-19	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director, Children and Families	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee note the work plan for 2018-19 as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.
2. That the committee review and identify any further items for consideration in the work plan for 2018-19.
3. That the committee note the attached Appendix 1 (motion being considered by council assembly 11 July 2018).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

4. The constitution for the municipal year 2018-2019 records the corporate parenting committee's role and functions as follows:
  - a. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
  - b. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan.
  - c. 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.
  - d. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
  - e. 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.
  - f. 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.
  - g. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.



- h. 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.
- i. To report to the council's cabinet on a twice yearly basis.
- j. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
- k. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children's services after each meeting.
- l. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 5. The corporate parenting committee review and update the work plan each meeting.

#### **9 July 2018**

- Ofsted inspection update on action plan
- Update on child protection plan increases (including focus on adolescent numbers, illustrated by their journey in and out of care)
- IRO Annual report 2016-17
- Sufficiency strategy.

#### **5 November 2018**

- Southwark Looked After Children Health Annual Report 2018-2019
- Foster care annual report
- Adoption annual report
- Catch 22 project update.

#### **26 February 2019**

Items to be confirmed.

#### **25 March 2019**

- IRO annual report

#### **Items to be scheduled**

- Corporate parenting principles resulting from legislative principles
- Placement stability; draft or final version of the front loaded / early intervention offer
- Looked after children Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Update on the 16+ accommodation project to a future meeting (requested 8 November 2016)
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (requested 1 March 2017)
- Speakerbox (out of borough placements) feedback, including health and educational experiences (requested 1 March 2017)
- Special guardianship orders generally and what support can be offered to children and families (requested 25 April 2017).

### Corporate parenting committee meetings with SpeakerBox

6. SpeakerBox, established in 2005, ensures that the views of looked after children and care leavers are used to influence decision making that affects their care and support. Representing children and young people between 8 and 24 years the group also provides a peer to peer networking support system for looked after children. The programme is operated independently and run by the young people themselves, although it is supported by the council's children services team, senior managers and councillors.

### 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
<b>Web link:</b> <a href="http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&amp;Year=0">http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&amp;Year=0</a>		

### APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Council assembly motion 11 July 2018

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Families	
<b>Report Author</b>	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	28 June 2018	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		28 June 2018

## **Corporate Parenting in Southwark Motion submitted to Council Assembly - 11 July 2018**

**Proposer:** Cllr Kath Whittam

**Seconder:** Cllr Jasmine Ali

This motion seeks to build on the good work that Southwark is doing with children in our care and young people leaving care. Last year we received a good rating from Ofsted, secured innovation funding to enable young people in care to reconfigure our care leaving services, and waived council tax fees for all care leavers.

This year, in our forward plan, we have guaranteed an education placement or apprenticeship for all children and young people preparing to leave care.

### **Background**

At the same time we have witnessed a national scrutiny spotlight being put on children's social care. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 has released updated statutory guidance to improve corporate parenting. This was followed by the launch of the Education Committee's scrutiny of foster care which was in turn swiftly followed by the release of government commissioned Foster Care in England Inquiry authored by Martin Narey and Mark Owers.

The Government's response to the scrutiny reports has yet to be released – but we can anticipate a shift to improve services along the lines of permanence as opposed to fragmented responses to families requiring care services into adoption, SGOs and foster care.

At the same time the LGA and the ADCS have launched its Brighter Future campaign which has exposed a £2 billion deficit in children's social care. In Southwark we hosted the launch of a suite of reports entitled Care Crisis.

### **Individual Councillors as Corporate Parents**

The role that this council plays in looking after children is one of the most important things that we do. Just like all other local authorities, we have a unique responsibility to the children that we look after. It is in this context that local authorities are referred to as the 'corporate parent' of these children and young people, and the critical question that we should ask in adopting such an approach is 'would this be good enough for my child?'

- Council assembly recognises that children in care are more likely to succeed in education or employment if someone is interested in their progress.
- Council assembly will build on its strong ethos of corporate parenting by inviting **all** councillors to participate in this role, not only those on the Corporate Parenting Committee
- Council assembly calls on Cabinet to develop a scheme to engage councillors with looked after children, including monitoring their progress and encouraging written contact in the form of cards to acknowledge birthdays, faith festival dates and dates of exams, results of exams and education or job interview results
- Council assembly encourages councillors to volunteer to be a part of this initiative, recognising that this is a serious commitment to a potentially vulnerable child.

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**CORPORATE PARENTING DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)****MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19****NOTE:** Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to  
Paula Thornton Tel: 020 7525 4395

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
<b>Membership</b>		<b>Constitutional Team</b>	
Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)	1	Paula Thornton	10
Councillor Eliza Mann	1		
<b>Electronic versions (No hard copy)</b>		<b>Total:</b>	16
Councillor Evelyn Akoto		<b>Dated:</b> 24 May 2018	
Councillor Jon Hartley			
Councillor Charlie Smith			
Councillor Sunny Lambe			
Councillor Catherine Rose			
<b>Co-opted members</b>			
Florence Emakpose (external)	1		
<b>Children's Services</b>			
David Quirke-Thornton	1		
Alasdair Smith	1		
<b>Legal</b>			
Sarah Feasey	1		