

Item No. 12.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 February 2012	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work plan 2011/12	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2011/12 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 2011/2012 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 followed this framework for the remainder of the municipal year 2010/11. Additionally, the committee agreed at its meeting on 21 April 2010 that the 'enjoy and achieve' committee meeting would coincide with mid year performance review (November). The committee also agreed to receive 'on an exception basis' report/s of any significant variations evident from the monthly review of looked after children/care leavers.

Policy implications

4. 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. The committee's programme of work has been developed to meet these outcomes.

Future agenda items

5. The following work plan sets out the allocation of items for future meetings. The committee may wish to review the scheduling.

21 February 2012

Stay Safe Theme

- Report on the outcome and any issues arising out of the fostering inspection
- Adoption Report including power point presentation
- Health issues facing children waiting for adoption – Dr. Anthony Tam to be invited to this meeting
- A report back setting out a detailed analysis ('deep dive') of the factors involved in the speed and placement of children for adoption
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual report
- Report from the Lead Commissioner (CAMHS) (Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services) on the impact of any proposed service reductions upon Carelink and its capability to deliver targeted interventions for children in care and foster carer support. The review to include impact on young people in gangs or at risk of gang activity.

23 April 2012

Economic Wellbeing Theme

- Unaccompanied minors (including request from April 2011 with regard to the feasibility and practicalities of the reference of minors to other boroughs legal teams (to utilise legal experience from other authorities on an independent basis)
- Adolescent and After Care Service
- Children Looked After (CLA) performance indicators for the Economic Wellbeing theme and wider performance data
- Report back on decision from April meeting to report back on the feasibility and practicalities of the reference of minors to other boroughs' legal teams (to utilise legal experience from other authorities on an independent basis)

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

July 2012

Be Healthy Theme

- To receive the draft 2011/12 Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioning Update Treatment Plan for comment prior to its presentation to the Southwark Children and Families trust and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board
- Financial costings for extending the 16 plus transition phase (Carelink) and to mainstream more comprehensive work in respect of the work of the under 5's
- Report on the intergenerational review and the results to be reported back to corporate parenting committee (as requested under Designated Doctor for Children Looked After Annual report 2009/10 and Draft teenage pregnancy strategy items considered 22 September 2010)
- Annual Performance Report 2011/12
- That officers include as part of the 'Be Healthy' theme relating to HIV infection rates among young people in developed countries.

September 2012

- Report back to committee to monitor the situation relating to any likely impacts on access to higher education in light of the change in the fee regime.

Community impact statement

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

Resource implications

7. 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 SE1 2QH	Bola Roberts 020 7525 7232

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Bola Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	6 February 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	6 February 2012	