

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 November 2012	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2012/13	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children’s and Adult Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2012/13 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.
2. That the item listed for consideration for this meeting on the impact of welfare reforms on looked after children/young people be deferred until 26 February 2013.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

3. The constitution for the municipal year 2012/2013 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

4. The corporate parenting committee agreed on 7 July 2010 to move towards thematic meetings and have followed this framework since. Additionally, the committee agreed at its meeting on 21 April 2010 to receive a mid year performance review report. The committee also agreed to receive report/s of any significant performance variations evident from the monthly review of services for looked after children and care leavers.

Policy implications

5. 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. In addition, the outcomes of the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services published on 10 July 2012 and other Government guidance will be taken into consideration in determining and reviewing the committee's work programme.

Future agenda items

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

5 November 2012

Economic Wellbeing Theme

- Child and adolescent mental health and Carelink (deferred from 18 July 2012)
- Impact of welfare reforms on looked after children/young people
- Pathway planning: feedback from young people leaving care
- Detailed action plan on how improvements will be implemented as a result of the safeguarding and looked after children inspection.

26 February 2013

Enjoy and Achieve Theme

- Key stage 2 results and confirmed GCSE results
- Report from the virtual head teacher
- Mid year performance review
- Report back to committee to monitor the situation relating to any likely impacts on access to higher education.

29 April 2013

Stay Safe Theme

- Annual report on adoption services
- Annual report on fostering services
- Stability and permanency for children in care
- Children in care and youth offending
- Independent reviewing officer (IRO) annual report
- Adolescent and After Care Service.

July 2013

Making a Positive Contribution

- Feedback from joint meetings between Speaker Box and members of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Speaker Box action plan
- Speaker Box mission statement.

Ongoing/monitoring

- 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 http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ie/ListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&Year=2012	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Sean Usher 020 7525 5338

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director of Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	18 October 2012	
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	18 October 2012	