

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 17 July 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 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.
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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. 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

4. 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.
5. Other areas highlighted for attention include:
 - Holding regular meetings with the Children in Care Council (Speakerbox) and listening to children;
 - Improving the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service and receiving regular reports on performance and impact;
 - Ensuring children in care have access to advocacy services;
 - Enabling the voice of the child to be heard when decisions are made about placement changes;
 - Making sure that all children in care know about the NSPCC helpline;
 - Ensure that children in care are informed of their entitlements.
6. It is proposed that a detailed report is presented to the next Corporate Parenting Committee which sets out in detail how these issues are being addressed by Children's Social Care and partner agencies.

Policy implications

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

Community impact statement

8. The committee will receive a further report which sets out how Southwark has addressed the points in the letter identifying any relevant community impact implications at this point.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

No.	Title
None	

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families “ Corporate Parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care.”

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director Children’s Social Care		
Report Author	Rory Patterson, Director Children’s Social Care		
Version	Final		
Dated	20 June 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			8 July 2013