

Item No. 12.	Classification: Open	Date: 23 February 2016	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2015/16	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children’s Social Care	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2015/16 as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.
2. To note that the committee will receive the 2016/17 work plan at its next meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

3. The constitution for the municipal year 2015/2016 records the corporate parenting committee’s role and functions 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 review and update the work plan each meeting.

23 February 2016

- Report back on St. Christopher's project in order to review the process
- Annual virtual headteacher report
- Update on councillor workshops on children missing from care
- SpeakerBox update to track actions and feedback (including communication, family and contact and placements)
- Soutwark Information Advisory Service to be invited to this meeting and work undertaken in respect of transitioning for looked after children
- Autism strategy and how impacts looked after children.
- Placement stability and update on statistics. Committee to look at case studies of 15 unstable and 5 stable/positive placements.

Items to be programmed 2016/17

- Foster care training available, including foster carers' experience
- A readiness for school evaluation and clarification at the point at which the child/young persons enters care
- Transition from care to independent living – report back on outcome of review of semi-independent living/supported housing
- Innovation Projects.

Corporate Parenting Committee Meetings with SpeakerBox

5. 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.
6. The committee are due to meet with SpeakerBox next on the 16 February 2016.

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
Web link: http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&Year=0		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	10 February 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
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