

Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 4 November 2020

2.00 pm

Online/Virtual. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Please contact constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk for a link to the online meeting

Membership

Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Charlie Smith

Reserves

Councillor Peter Babudu
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Victoria Olisa

Non-voting co-opted members

Florence Emakpose, Francis Turkson
Mark Kerr, Rosamond Marshall, Tracey Harrison
and Nicky Stoupe.

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

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Access

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Contact

Paula Thornton and Beverley Olamijulo on 020 7525 4395 or email: paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk or beverley.olamijulo@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 27 October 2020



Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 4 November 2020
2.00 pm

Online/Virtual. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk for a link to the online meeting

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	MOBILE PHONES	
	Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting.	
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS	
	A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.	
3.	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR	
	To elect a vice-chair for the 2020-21 municipal year for the corporate parenting committee.	
4.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
5.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
6.	MINUTES	1 - 8
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 8 July 2020.	
7.	FEEDBACK FROM INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES (2.10PM)	9 - 18
8.	COVID - 19 LOCKDOWN UPDATE (2.20PM)	
9.	BLACK LIVES MATTERS (VERBAL UPDATE) (2.40PM)	
10.	WORKSHOP - EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING (3.00PM)	
11.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2020-21	19 - 22

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.”

ANY OTHER CLOSED BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 27 October 2020



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 8 July 2020 at 2.00 pm. Online/virtual meeting

PRESENT:	Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair) Councillor Bill Williams (Vice-chair) Councillor Evelyn Akoto Councillor Maggie Browning Councillor Sunny Lambe Councillor Eliza Mann Councillor Charlie Smith
NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:	Francis Turkson Mark Kerr Tracey Harrison
YOUNG PEOPLE	Olivia Nation, Children's Rights and Participation officer in attendance with a number of young people
OFFICER SUPPORT:	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families Dr Stacy John-Legere, Designated Dr for Looked After Children Dr Dolly Agrawal, Dr for Looked After Children Angela Brown, Nurse for Looked After Children Andrew Fowler, Head of Service, Children in Care and Care Leavers Leval Haughton-James, Children's and Adult Services Helen Woolgar, Assistant Director - Safeguarding and Care, Children's and Adults' Services Michele Sault, CCG Khalida Khan, Interim Service Manager, Children's and Adults' Services Kelly Henry, Head of Service Permanence, Children's and

Adults' Services
Usha Singh, Virtual Head Teachers
Neil Gordon-Orr, Strategic Manager, Education Access
Paula Thornton, Beverley Olamijulo and Poonam Patel,
Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as presented were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

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

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None were declared.

5. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY REVIEW

The director of children & families introduced the report and explained the need for a new corporate parenting strategy review and welcomed the attendance of young people at this committee meeting to begin the process. Additionally, the director explained the impact of the Black Lives Matters (BLM) movement and Bright Spots and how these would also feed into this strategy review.

Arising from the report and presentation by the director of children and families the following points were made:

- Query on the timeframe and the importance to ensure that the strategy deals with the emerging issues and changed landscape (Covid-19 pandemic and BLM)
- Mental health and wellbeing challenges
- Comment on the resilience of local authority children services and work undertaken with foster care placements, which has shown a real demonstration of commitment in these challenging times
- The planned 'refresh' of the Council's Plan to respond to BLM and COVID-19
- Big task to ensure that no-one slips through the net

- Concern about the economic and social mobility impact on children and young people; intervention remains key in terms of education and training and that these result in actual jobs and ongoing learning. Important to focus on how to bridge the gap between education and training. The 'old style' apprenticeships previously provided a basis for good training and resulting to jobs but the future is not clear.
- Good opportunity to align council and clinical care commissioning (CCG) objectives and the chance to think about joint priorities
- Issue of ensuring break-out plans/health and support discussed at the health and wellbeing board and to involve more public involvement on these issues via the board (to be more public facing)
- Concern about the absence of children and young people from the main strategic plan. Important discussions to be had to ensure that children and young people are better reflected in these strategic plans (including the council and the NHS). Need to apply co-production in the design of strategies to ensure that their voice is clear and reflected
- Access of children and young people to services and addressing their difficulties
- Child mental health, difficult to find in the plan

The director of children and families concluded by welcoming the involvement of all partners, children and young people and the community in taking this strategy forward, which will take time. Continuing commitment to ensure that the strategy is owned by this partnership and joint working to continue.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the schedule for delivery of the new corporate parenting strategy be developed (a summary of the main issues raised set out above).

6. ANNUAL VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

The virtual head teacher presented the annual report to the committee and actions taken following lockdown, with regard to the practical support and health and wellbeing, including the following measures to provide support and bridge the gaps:

- Early release of funding and opportunity for all to request funding in respect of immediate need
- Provision of home tuition to supplement teaching provided by their school (feedback received that most have engaged with this provision)
- Laptops bought and delivered in two days
- Children transition at primary / secondary level support
- Every looked after child has allocated personal adviser (and support to be individual to that child)

- Strong focus to keep children motivated and engaged.

The following queries were raised:

- Access of children not attending schools to the internet / laptops
- Issue of children returning to school in September and concern by foster parents and social distancing measures in place: challenge for schools to plan accordingly. Some may chose not to return to school in September and the difficulties in policing. Strong advice is needed to ensure children go back to school
- Concerns raised by young people on funding. Some in a catch 22 situation; if at university unable to claim support because of student grants and getting jobs difficult in the COVID-19 climate, with ensuing financial pressures which puts these young people at a disadvantage
- Young people asked about the support available for care leavers to stay in education (officers responded that dependent on income and funding available dependent on financial need/circumstances)
- Query on why local authorities have not extended care leaving age to 25 (some may withdraw/drop out and return to education hence need for extended age range)
- Data and achievement levels at different ages (why some of the younger children do not to achieve as well as the older children). Explained probably as part of their care experience (also not in care long) and as their care progresses the correct support package is put in place
- Explore how many apprenticeships/traineeships provided to care leavers in Southwark
- Request for a short pre-meeting to be set up with including the chair, Alasdair Smith, Tracey Harrison, Mark Kerr, Danny Edwards, Councillor Stephanie Cryan in respect of education, employment and training. Young people to also be involved in this pre-meeting, with a view also have a workshop by the end of August.

Officers explained the low level of funding provided by government in this area and the further difficulties ahead in the COVID-19 pandemic. Explained issue of apprenticeships a key target in the council plan.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Virtual Head teacher's report for Southwark Looked After Children be noted.
2. That the comments provided at the committee and summarised above be noted.
3. Request for a short pre-meeting to be set up with including the chair, Alasdair, Tracey Harrison, Mark Kerr, Danny Edwards, Councillor Stephanie Cryan in respect of education, employment and training. Young people to also be involved in this pre-meeting with a view also have a workshop by the

end of August.

7. REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN, CARE LEAVERS AND FOSTER CARERS DURING COVID-19

Officers outlined a number of key highlights:

- Bespoke risk assessment for every child
- Risk assessments for foster carers and extra funding available
- Social worker increased contact with children and conversations around supporting distancing COVID-19 measures
- Description of some practical examples of support offered for families and children
- Importance of support and guidance from the designated looked after doctor and health professionals (fast track of testing where necessary)
- Increase of personal allowances to cover data and Wi-Fi
- Also payment of £10 per week of allowance to children in custody to enable continued contact

Summary of issues / questions raised:

General

- Dr. Stacy John-Legere outlined the measures in place for looked after children in respect of shielding to provide support and guidance
- Mental health sessions delivered via zoom / Microsoft Teams and identification of continuing therapies
- Dr. Dolly Agrawal referred to recovery plan in line with Royal College guidelines including triage system, PPE, video and face-to-face assessments
- Disproportionate impact on children and care leavers and looking at business and how local authority can support, give information and provide an opportunity for concerns to be raised.

Issues raised by young people present:

- A young person was able to communicate his experience of living through COVID-19 talking about the feeling of isolation and the severe impact on mental and physical health; the effect of panic buying which served to further exacerbate these feelings of isolation. This young person moved from another city where studying at university to London and had to find a home; other young people were able to move in with their families with support and help
- Concern expressed about the greater impact for black, Asian and minority ethnic group young (BAME people and query what support has been given (including the increased risk of death amongst this group). Officers outlined the individual assessment/support provided and regular newsletter
- Identified issues arising through their employment if PPE not provided (officers

responded by confirming employers responsible for PPE) but if not responding to let officers know so that they can work to mitigate any negative impacts for the young person

- Example of trying to get to work by bus in a time where use of public transport discouraged (no parents to offer a lift) and being late for work; bills still have to be paid and rent so no option but to go to work
- Query raised about support for care leavers whom are asylum seekers. Officers advised policy in place to deal with this recognised vulnerable group
- How care leavers are receiving support for education and training. It was explained that a workshop would shortly be taking place to deal with these issues and identify the best pathway for support
- Query if the support referred to previously would be withdrawn following COVID-19 (for example £10 allowance for phone). Confirmed that this financial support would not continue but the helpline would carry on and other support would remain
- Issues of laptops raised and what young people receiving.

RESOLVED:

1. That the response of children's services to looked after children, care leavers and foster carers during COVID19 be noted.
2. That it be noted that a workshop will take place towards the end of August to deal with education, employment and training issues arising.

8. BLACK LIVES MATTER (DISCUSSION)

Councillor Jasmine Ali opened the discussion by referencing the work being undertaken by Southwark Stands Together (Member / officer working group) chaired by Councillor Johnson Situ. It was explained that the Black Lives Matters (BLM) issues are being examined in order to formulate recommendations.

Summary of issues / discussion raised:

- Young people referred to a meeting held on 17 June and were keen to hear what actions were progressed and the latest position of those actions
- Issue of training in respect of racism and black history needed to be looked at in more detail with training providers. This was an issue highlighted by a number of young people on 17 June
- Responding to the needs of young people (culturally and practically in terms of understanding the basic wellbeing from food to hair care), was echoed by the young people present. This may involve plans/actions when talking to foster carers and social workers in advance of a placement
- Frustration by young people at their perceived 'lack of progress' since 17 June. It was explained that the process will involve engagements and work is being undertaken 'behind the scenes' to deal with the issues raised through continued discussions

- Different communication channels to inform training, development and policies
- A young person was able to speak of their experiences as a young black carer and the feeling that black parents were more likely to be blamed for neglect
- Emphasis on the need to address issues using these experiences and the importance of a loving family for children
- Ensure statements and intentions are meaningful and that organisations were not jumping on the 'band wagon' or churning out statements with no clear plan of action. Important to monitor and ensure objectives achieved in a considered manner
- A workshop to take place early August and come with proposals/ideas and to feed into work of Southwark Stands Together member/officer working group
- The designated nurse for children in care acknowledged the learning that needs to take place and the need to continue to listen and ask questions. Learning will be taken back to her work area from these discussions
- Issue of help to get into employment and jobs (also discussion under the virtual head teacher's annual report) to be further discussed at a workshop to be set up
- Positive black history in education, including the Windrush; not always victims and negative. Also something to be addressed in the home setting (and for young people to not just find out through social media and other external sources).

Councillor Jasmine Ali concluded discussions by reminding the committee of the planned workshop in August to discuss all these issues and bring a number of recommendations together.

RESOLVED:

That a workshop to take place early August and to come with proposals/ideas and to feed into work of Southwark Stands Together member/officer working group.

9. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2020-21

RESOLVED:

1. That the corporate parenting committee agree the approach and work plan as set out in the report.
2. That the following 4 November 2020 draft agenda be agreed as follows:
 - Update on corporate parenting strategy / council plan
 - Update on Black Lives Matter and COVID-19 (including feedback from workshops in August)
 - Fostering and Adoption reports
 - Sufficiency strategy.

3. The need to re-visit work undertaken previous in workshops on housing ar accommodation support and needs for young people.

The meeting ended at 5.10 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 November 2020	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Feedback from Inspections of Children's Social Care and Youth Offending Services	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Alasdair Smith, Director of Children & Families	

PURPOSE

To advise the Corporate Parenting Committee of the outcome of two inspection processes undertaken within the Children and Families Division during the response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the contents of this report

BACKGROUND

Children's Social Care and Early Help

2. Her Majesty's Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) conducted an inspection, called a "focused visit", of the council's children's social care and early help services, located within the council's Children and Families Division. The purpose of the focused visit was to consider how the council had provided services for children and families in its social care system during the Covid 19 pandemic.
3. Southwark was one of three councils chosen to be the first to be inspected following the cessation of inspection for 6 months due to the pandemic. This was not a graded inspection.
4. The focused visit was undertaken by 5 inspectors using virtual methods over 4 days from 29 September 2020 to 1 October 2020. The inspection consisted of focus groups of managers and multi-agency partners on key areas, consideration in depth of 20 children including interviews with social workers, carers and schools, and dip sampling of a wide selection of other work across the whole range of children's social care services.
5. On 2 October, the inspection team provided feedback about their findings. This

report is based on what was shared in that meeting as well as meetings with senior leaders undertaken during the inspection. A letter of findings will be published on 13 November 2020.

Youth Offending Service

6. Southwark was one of seven Youth Offending Services chosen for a thematic review of youth offending work under Covid-19 restrictions by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. This inspection consisted of focus groups with managers, board members and staff groups; and reviews of 10 cases with the allocated workers. The inspection meetings started w/c 22 June 2020 and sessions with casework staff completed w/c 20 July 2020. These inspections are not a graded core inspection but rather a thematic look at practice delivery.
7. The thematic report is due to be published early November 2020. 'Hot' feedback was provided by the lead inspector in a virtual meeting on 5 August 2020 and the contents of this report are taken from that. This was a significant opportunity to hear informally from critical friends and allow us to prepare for the more robust HMIP inspection that Southwark is due.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Ofsted Focused Visit

Early Help

8. Inspectors felt there was an impressive strategic response to helping children and families. A good application of thresholds for help and support in early help, although there was some delay for a small number of children from the point of referral to the Family Early Help Service to receipt of intervention due in large part to the demands experienced during the pandemic.
9. Inspectors felt that intervention through Children's Centres represented a timely offer of support. They acknowledged the work of all agencies providing a safety net for families considering the most vulnerable children. Inspectors valued the thinking ahead approach.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

10. The service adapted quickly to virtual working, becoming more efficient which had a positive impact on decision making for children, particularly for multi-agency involvement in this. Inspectors saw no detriment in decision making in the MASH during the pandemic period. Application of thresholds was consistent and appropriate and ensured that families were directed towards the

right help at the right time, including the interface between early help and children's social care.

11. Inspectors recognised that addressing concerns around children being in homes with significant levels of domestic violence was a national concern. They saw a robust response within the MASH, that was proportionate and that was very aware of the impact of domestic violence on children. Research and analysis was used well within the MASH and there was good involvement from specialist services, i.e. Solace. The MASH showed evidence of researched informed culturally sensitive work around domestic violence.

Children in need and child protection

12. Inspectors saw evidence of the high level of complexity in children and families lives and were very impressed with the overall approach of social workers and managers. Decision making at the end of assessment is supported by detailed analysis, and decisions to move into child in need planning was proportionate and balanced, thresholds were well applied.
13. Inspectors were positive about the minimal use of virtual visiting and the work that had been done to still positively establish good relationships with children.
14. Inspectors found that for the most part plans are comprehensive, realistic and child focused but they also found that some plans are not updated when they should be and that the sometimes do not reflect the changing needs of children for example, where risk escalates or new issues occur, such as changing patterns of school attendance.
15. Inspectors asked us to ensure that plans are more purposeful and that actions are more focused on what is we are seeking to measure as progress and improvement in outcomes, and why. They had seen some very strong examples, but this could be improved across the board.
16. Inspectors noted that whilst assessments showed good understanding and analysis of risk, when this moved into longer term planning there could be delay in implementing plans. Good work is being done to understand need but in some cases, there could be more pace in taking forward activity to improve outcomes for children.
17. Inspectors recognised the incredibly tenacity shown by social workers trying to continue to engage with children and young people in creative ways during the pandemic. Inspectors were pleased to hear from social workers who confidently and positively described the efforts they had gone to engage children physically and virtually during lockdown, whilst being able to professionally describe the challenges that did and still exist.

18. In most instances, inspectors found direct work to be sensitive to children's needs and circumstances, and conducted using a range of tools to understand their wishes and feelings. There were good examples of social workers developing bespoke tools and ways of working with children, and inspectors saw that social workers knew their children well.
19. Social workers had met the challenge of meeting children and young people virtually, and inspectors were impressed with the work all staff had been doing. Inspectors noted that social workers adapted well to the demands of the pandemic and they should be proud of this. There was a good use of interpreters and work to understand people's culture and identify.
20. Inspectors identified the system for tracking children prior to court proceedings is underdeveloped and delay is not all explained by the pandemic.
21. Inspectors viewed the work with children with disabilities needs to be stronger in relation to the oversight of managing child centred practice.
22. Inspectors felt there was good multi-agency working in particular with schools and health services. Engagement of partners in virtual CIN network meetings and reviews was seen as a positive. The pandemic had been a catalyst in terms of galvanising multi-agency partners safeguard children.
23. In relation to work to support vulnerable adolescents Inspectors commented there was enthusiastic staff, who had good ideas about how to move forward our work to support young people at risk of exploitation. Workers have good knowledge of individual young people, and there is positive instances of good and regular inter-professional communication and development of the network around children. Some positive examples of holistic planning and understanding of the impact of childhood trauma. Inspectors could see the development of an early intervention approach.
24. Response to extra-familial harm was not as joined up as it could be and required work. Inspectors had heard some positive descriptions of activity but felt these needed to be captured and progressed promptly.

Children in care and care leavers

25. Inspectors felt that children enter care in a timely fashion and in their best interest, and that the use of Section 20 (voluntary accommodation) is appropriate.

26. Inspectors found the majority of children have continued to make progress during the pandemic. Most live with committed carers and receive regular and purposeful care and support from their social workers.
27. Inspectors found that children's health needs were well considered. Strengths and difficulties questionnaires (SDQs) were successfully triggering access to services for children, in terms of therapeutic work, and access to a good and wide-ranging child mental health and wellbeing offer.
28. Inspectors saw a resolute approach to staying in touch with children in care during the pandemic, and in many instances children had more contact than they might usually, and inspectors were confident that relationships had been well maintained. They felt that nothing about the pandemic had affected negatively on the relationships between social workers and children in care.
29. Inspectors felt children's contact with their families had been well thought about to enable children to stay in touch with family using virtual means and face-to-face contact.
30. Inspectors felt appropriate placements are identified for children in care and all children reviewed were having their needs met by their placements including where these were not long term.
31. Inspectors told us that children's long term placements were well matched and that they were not resource led, however they repeated that sufficiency for older young people is a persistent issue. Inspectors saw acute difficulty in finding placements for adolescents with complex behaviours.
32. Inspectors felt we could provide help and support earlier to improve placement stability overall and noted positively the restarting of the complex needs panel that was stopped during the pandemic.
33. Foster carers were universally positive about the support and help they receive. They told inspectors that social workers were reliable and responsive and most of all that "they do what they say they are going to do." They also said that children were made to feel extra valued and cared for.
34. Inspectors concluded the offer to young people who have left care as highly effective and that improvements have been embedded and sustained. Personal advisors deliver with dedication and diligently support young people to achieve independence.
35. Inspectors saw positive evidence of clinical support to young people who have left care and noted the positive work of highly skilled experience practitioners.

36. Inspectors who met young people said they described feeling “care about, as well as cared for”.
37. Pathway plans represent the voice of children well and their ambitions, care leavers are helped to feel safe, and inspectors spoke positively of the letters to young people included in plans.

Education Support for children in care and care leavers

38. The virtual school was seen to have responded positively to the pandemic in a number of ways. It had responded promptly to ascertain the whereabouts and attendance of our children including where those children had low attendance or were declining to attend. Children were provided promptly with laptops and support to access online learning. The virtual school put in place supplementary provision, and showed particular efforts to offer supplementary learning for KS4 pupils.
39. The development of the Covid-19 PEP was remark on positively, and inspectors saw this as a good vehicle that had been well used to keep children safe, engaged and improve attendance. Inspectors noted that 90% of children in care now have good attendance and there were particular successes for those with SEND.
40. Inspectors felt that the focus on support to young people moving into post-16 provision was having a positive impact on outcomes and the IEG Officer works well to establish their destinations and support those in need of additional help.
41. Inspectors cited the high number of pupils placed outside of the borough and reflected that they had established relationships with the virtual school and that remote contact had meant they received no different offer of support compared to those living locally.
42. In terms of the education of children during the pandemic, the inspectors were very impressed by the children’s own commitment to continuing in education and the efforts they were going to themselves to attend.
43. Inspectors also noted that placement decision making took good care to ensure that where possible children could remain in their existing education settings and support was offered to facilitate this well by services.

Feedback from children and young people

44. Inspectors were very impressed with both groups of young people that they met during the inspection (care leavers and children in care).
45. They felt that our young people had shown great resilience during a time of huge disruption, and they were particularly caring of each other.
46. Young people felt really cared for and were full of praise for their workers.
47. Young people reported that advice and support was always available to them including at weekends and evenings, and that they routinely received lot of information about what help and support was available to them
48. The most significant issue raised by young people was access to housing and the help available to them to prepare for the reality of independent living. Including access to their savings.
49. Young people felt they had passionate, caring and experienced workers and would like to thank their PAs and get them a pay rise.

Workforce

50. Inspectors felt that staff were skilled, able and committed social workers, who mostly have appropriate workloads that allow them sufficient time and capacity to deliver child centred practice.
51. Inspectors said that despite the complexity inherent in the Borough staff relentlessly hold hope for our children and young people, they are committed and child focused, and they take the time to do the work with children that is needed to build trust.
52. Inspectors noted that they could see the evidence of staff turnover as being part of the impact on the issues of delay in progressing plans but that leaders have a strategy to improve the workforce stability.

Youth Offending Service

53. Inspectors fed back informally how positive the response of the Youth Offending Service and partners has been during the pandemic. They highlighted the strength of a culture of discussion across the organisation, effective information flow and an understanding of the increased risk to black, asian and minority ethnicity communities came across strongly.
54. Inspectors acknowledged the adaptability of staff, their creativity and flexibility, their knowledge of children's development and decision-making is impressive. The felt staff were rising to the challenge and being listened to by managers and supported by them.
55. Inspectors felt strength was the maturity and development of the systemic, trauma-informed approach and the input of the clinical practitioner important, constructive and useful – a 'stand out' approach not seen in other areas with the impact visible across the service.

Casework

56. Inspectors felt C-19 risk assessments were done well and used as a live document to support practice and assessments recognised the emotional and mental health aspects of the pandemic.
57. Inspectors felt staff know their young people and respond to different needs and are active, agile and alert in their response.
58. Inspectors felt there was good multiagency working dealing with complex cases has continued and partnership is strong, with the sense of not overwhelming families with agencies but sequencing interventions and allowing a bottom up approach to inform decisions whilst having strong management oversight through availability of managers and practice group discussions.

Areas for consideration and improvement

59. Inspectors felt that the Impact of C-19 changes on frontline managers and the volume of work needed to be further considered. They also described a digital divide evident nationally and ensuring everyone has the right 'kit' has to be an ongoing priority. The impact of not having it is significant.
60. Inspectors felt plans could focus more on risk of harm to others. They noted peer navigators described pandemic as 'blessing and a curse' – and were thinking of post lockdown and what next so need more consideration of planning going forward.

Other issues of consideration arising from the inspection

61. Inspectors were concerned about coping with a backlog of court work and other prosecution work delayed by the courts, outside the control of the Youth Offending Service.
62. Inspectors noted the challenges to contact with young people in the secure estate and the impact of C-19 restrictions on them while in custody.
63. Inspectors valued ensuring effective joint working with looked after young people involved in youth justice services wherever their placement.

Policy implications

64. None were identified.

Community impact statement

65. It is important to note that these two independent inspections should give some level of assurance that our services to the most vulnerable members of the community have been on the whole run effectively during this unprecedented pandemic.

Resource implications

66. None were identified.

Legal implications

67. None were identified.

Financial implications

68. None were identified.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Families	
Report Author	Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Families	
Version	Final	
Dated	27 October 2020	
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
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		27 October 2020

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 November 2020	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2020-21	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children and Families	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee agree the approach and work plan as set out in the report.
2. That the committee review and identify any further items for consideration in the work plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

3. The constitution for the municipal year 2019-2020 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.

National and local context for care leavers

- 4. There is national momentum towards improving outcomes for care leavers. The government introduced 'Keep on Caring' strategy in 2016, increased council statutory duties to care leavers in the Children and Social Work Act in 2017, appointed a national Adviser for Care Leavers who produced a report in 2018, alongside the national launch of the Care Covenant. The council has responded to the various recommendations, for example by prioritising education, employment and training outcomes for care leavers in the Council Plan and developing the care leaver local offer as well as increasing service capacity for the extended personal adviser duties to 25.
- 5. Although much has been done to improve services and outcomes for care leavers, the council has an ambition to go above and beyond, by creating the best Leaving Care Service possible, by co-designing this with young people, learning from other organisations and trialling new ideas to test what works best.
- 6. In 2017 the council and Catch22 received funding from the DfE Social Care Innovation Programme to work in partnership to design and test new ways of working to support care leavers. The Care Leavers Partnership (CLP) works to improve outcomes for young people in Southwark by working across boundaries, reshaping the service delivery model, unlocking capacity in the community, and co-designing solutions. There are a number of strands that the CLP is working on to achieve our goals.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

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

meeting. Following the beginning of the municipal year 2019-20, and reflecting on the momentum towards improving outcomes for care leavers, the opportunity has been taken to review how the committee works and present proposals to refresh this in relation to: non-voting co-opted members; committee approach; and work plan and suggested agenda items.

Corporate Parenting Committee work plan and suggested agenda

8. 4 November 2020

Children in care

Ofsted feedback including (Youth Offending Service) / Covid-19 (lockdown)

Update on Black Lives Matters (verbal)

Care Leavers

Workshop theme **Employment, Education and Training (ETT)**

9. 3 March 2021

Children in care

- Children in Care Annual Health Report 2020-21
- Foster and Adoption Service Annual Reports 2019 – 20
- Corporate parenting strategy.

Care Leavers

Workshop theme **Housing**

10. 21 April 2021

Children in care

- Virtual Headteacher Annual Report 2019 – 2020
- Item to be agreed

Care Leavers

Workshop theme **to be advised**

SpeakerBox

11. 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 particularly service planning and design. 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 and councillors.

Community impact statement

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

Resource implications

13. 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	Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Families	
Report Author	Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Families	
Version	Final	
Dated	20 October 2020	
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
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	20 October 2020	

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Paula Thornton Tel: 020 7525 4395

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