



CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 2.15 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:	Councillor Natasha Ennin (Chair) for the meeting Councillor Irina Von Wiese
OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:	Dr Mark Kerr (subject matter expert) Rosamond Marshall (foster carer)
OFFICER SUPPORT:	Helen Woolgar, Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Care Elaine Reid, Head of Service: Permanence and Resources Sarah O Connor, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children Matthew Izekor, Employment adviser, Children and Adults Young people who have experienced the career / employment service Clare Ryan, Service Manager, Looked After Children Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer Beverley Olamijulo, Constitutional Officer Liam Reid, Cabinet office

ELECT CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Natasha Ennin be elected chair for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jasmine Ali, Charlie Smith, Esme Dobson, Sarah King and Maria Linforth- Hall

(Councillor Irina Von Wiese attended in place of Councillor Linforth-Hall).

Apologies for absence were also received from Speakerbox, Dechaun Malcolm, Ekta Gupta, Joy Hopkinson, Alasdair Smith, Joy Edwards and Dr. Stacy John-Legere.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as present 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

There were none.

5. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. SPEAKERBOX VERBAL UPDATE

Clare Ryan provided an update on behalf of Speakerbox. Key points included:

- Residential visit to farm which was a big success
- Speakerbox work and aims planned including looking at core values
- Plans to focus on three main priorities relating to education, wide range of opportunities and how they line up with the corporate parenting strategy and protection against exploitation and crime.

As a result of questions and what the committee could do to support the young people, it was suggested that funding for a yearly trip to the farm would be welcomed.

7. CARE LEAVERS INTO EMPLOYMENT - WORKSHOP / DISCUSSION

The committee heard a presentation from the careers and jobs 16 + service and work being undertaken to prepare careleavers for the world of work.

Matthew, a careers adviser informed the committee of the in-service provision and work with experienced practitioners and collaboration with the world of work and businesses, including PricewaterhouseCoopers, Berkley Homes and internship opportunities at the Department of Work and Pensions. The support provided by the team aims to demonstrate the experience of being in the workplace. Young people are provided with support in terms of interview practice and other measures to provide practical support and encouragement.

A number of young people present at the meeting were able to give examples of this support. A young person was able to show how the council had supported her application, improved her interview skills which enabled her to build confidence in her application to the civil service.

Another young person present had undertaken work experience in the council's local economy team which she described as an 'amazing' opportunity, enabling her to gain a wide range of skills and understanding.

Additionally, work experience opportunities had taken place within the council's highways team and homeownership team.

It was confirmed that a Southwark careers event taking place Tuesday 22 April 12-2pm at Talfourd place for Southwark careleavers.

Summary of discussion arising from the presentation

- The presentation referred to the tragic loss of a young person and the meeting. The chair referenced the particular challenges faced by some groups of young people, for example young black boys and work to be done in this area, while acknowledging the good progress and achievements to

date

- The work of the programme was commended and its contribution to the support given to young people in order to overcome the first hurdle on how to get selected and into work opportunities / placements
- Young people present were asked what could be done to further encourage others and paid work was mentioned as one option
- Officers referred to the use of 'career champions' within teams and the discussion taking place across corporate management team and the whole council approach to further promote the opportunities for careleavers and young people
- Noted secured additional funding from the Mayor of London
- Elaine Reid thanked Matthew for his dedication and drive for the past two years for careleavers and work identify the next opportunities and next steps
- The need to understand the statistics of the careleavers cohort and whether the internships / employment strategy has resulted in an increase in the numbers.

8. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2025-26

RESOLVED:

That the following items be added to the workplan:

- Each corporate parenting committee to receive a Southwark Homes for Southwark children update.

October 2025 committee. Add the following

- Clinical service, update on mental health support and CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services)
- Fostering report to include a focus on recruitment
- Update on corporate parenting strategy 2025-30
- Annual corporate parenting strategy report.

April 2026 committee. Add the following:

- Update on local offer for kinship care.

Date to be confirmed

- Exploitation, risk and harm and what doing to break cycles.

The meeting ended at 3.25pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: