

<b>Item No.</b> 12.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 7 December 2023	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2023-24	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of 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 2023-2024 records the corporate parenting committee's role and functions as follows:
  - i. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
  - ii. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
  - v. 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.
  - vi. 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.

- vii. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.
- viii. 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.
- ix. To report to the council's cabinet on an annual basis.
- x. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
- xi. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children's services after each meeting.
- xii. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

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

### **Corporate Parenting Committee work plan**

#### **7 December 2023**

- Speakerbox verbal update
- Annual Independent Reviewing Officer report
- Adoption annual report
- Virtual Annual Headteachers report
- Corporate parenting committee annual report
- Special guardianship verbal update.

#### **28 February 2024**

- Speakerbox verbal update

#### **16 April 2024**

- Speakerbox verbal update
- Annual Designated Doctor looked after children's report

## 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 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, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

### Community impact statement

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

### Equalities (including socio-economic) impact and health impact statement

6. Relevant issues will be addressed in the reports submitted to the corporate parenting committee.

### Climate change implications

7. The work plan process for the committee has no direct implications.

### 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	<a href="mailto:Paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk">Paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Web link:</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&amp;Year=0">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=129&amp;Year=0</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
<b>Report Author</b>	Beverley Olamijulo/ Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	29 November 2023	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	29 November 2023	