

CABINET MEETING ON 17 JANUARY 2024

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 17 January 2024	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022-23	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Jasmine Ali - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive: Governance and Assurance (JH ON 16.01.2024)

1. The purpose of this report is to provide cabinet with a report in accordance with paragraph 9 of Part 3J of the council's constitution relating to the Corporate Parenting Committee, describing one of its roles and functions to report to the council's cabinet on an annual basis.
2. Definitions for children looked after and local authority responsibilities are set out in Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Part 3 of the Children Act 1989, the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 as amended and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013.
3. Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduces seven core principles that local authorities as the corporate parent must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people,
 - to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
 - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
 - to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people

- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
 - to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
 - for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
 - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
4. Section 2 of this Act defines looked after children and young people as those in local authority care, relevant children and young people under 25 years old who are continuing education and training.
 5. Pursuant to the principles under Section 1, the role and function of the Corporate Parenting Committee in Southwark is to review and monitor the council's role as a corporate parent.
 6. Part 3J of the Southwark's constitution sets out the specific roles and responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Committee [3J Corporate Parenting Mar 2023.pdf \(southwark.gov.uk\)](#). In particular, paragraph 9 stipulates that the Committee is to "*report to the council's cabinet on an annual basis*".
 7. Whilst the constitution does not stipulate the format or what information must be contained in that report; the annual report should be aligned with the core principles under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and should set out how Southwark has met those statutory requirements over the financial year. This can also include consideration of the impact of Southwark's Corporate Parenting Strategy.