

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Date:</b>	11 November 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report 2023-24
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>From:</b>	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children's Services

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the committee

1. Consider the report contents and structure and advise on changes or additions in preparation for cabinet on 7 January 2025.
2. Note the 2023-24 draft priorities and agrees to recommend these to cabinet.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. The purpose of this report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Committee with a report in accordance with para 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.
4. This annual report on corporate parenting will be submitted to cabinet from the Corporate Parenting Committee. There are no specific matters reserved to this committee. The reason for this is that the role and function of the committee is to review and monitor the council's role as a corporate parent. This involves the participation of members on a cross political group committee.
5. Any specific actions the committee might identify as necessary would be executive functions and need to be taken by a cabinet decision maker, in accordance with cabinet responsibility for functions.
6. The full annual report is set out in Appendix A. The committee is asked to consider whether the proposed report, its content and structure, are what it wishes to report to cabinet on the delivery of the council's corporate parenting duties over the last year.

## **Key / Non-Key decisions**

7. The report does not relate to a key-decision.

## **Policy framework implications**

8. There are no policy implications arising from this report.

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

### **Community impact statement**

9. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, lays out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. The council's Approach to Equality commits the council to ensuring that equality is an integral part of our day to day business.
10. The council's Children's Services involves working closely with all relevant stakeholders and partners across the sector and collectively we are committed to upholding the responsibilities towards advocating the Public Sector Equality Duty and complying with the Equalities Act 2010. 13. The PSED enables public bodies to consider the diverse needs of groups and have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. Due regard is about considering the different needs of protected characteristics in relation to the three parts of the duty.
11. The Equalities Act 2010 define the following as protected characteristics; age; disability, gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement
12. The report takes account of the ethnicity, age and disabilities of children in care, as well as their racial ethnic background and considers the impact of services delivered to them.

## **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

13. A number of research studies and analyses have identified a clear social gradient in relation to social care statutory intervention to promote the protection and the welfare of children. We know that the greater the levels of deprivation and disadvantage faced by families the higher the likelihood that they will become involved with children's services nationally. This trend is consistent in Southwark with the level of deprivation in the home wards of the children in our care being strongly correlated with the numbers of children in care.
14. Children from black/black British and mixed/multiple global majority groups are disproportionately overrepresented in our children in care population when we compare them against the overall population of children in Southwark. This reflects national research around such intersectionality in relation to deprivation as described above. Overrepresentation of global majority communities is compounded when we account for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
15. Of the group of children in our care at the end of March 2024, when reviewed against the age at which they came into care, with the exception of the group from a white background who entered care at age 16 or 17, there is a trend towards later entry into care particularly for children from Black/Black British backgrounds, and earlier entry for children from white and mixed backgrounds. The disproportionate increase in the white care population entering at age 16 relates primarily to white British females entering care due to concerns around their mental health and emotional wellbeing.
16. Overall there are more males (58%) in our care than females (42%). This trend is exacerbated again by age with more males entering care in later adolescence and slightly more females entering care in early adolescence.
17. Research suggests that when children in care are compared with children who have not been in care, they tend to have poorer outcomes in a number of areas including their and mental and physical health. Corporate parenting work seeks to address these inequalities.  
Health impact statement

## **Climate change implications**

18. There are no relevant climate change implications.

## **Resource implications**

19. There are no relevant resourcing implications.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<a href="#">Corporate Parenting Strategy</a>	160 Tooley Street, London	Clare Pitchford 0207 525 5000

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023-24

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children's Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Clare Pitchford, Senior Service Development Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	29 October 2024	
<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, Resources	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	29 October 2024	