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| Item No. 11. | Classification: Open | Date: 24 February 2015 | Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee |
| Report title: | | Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2014/15 | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Director, Children’s Social Care | |

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2014/15 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. The constitution for the municipal year 2014/2015 records the corporate parenting committee’s role and functions are as follows:
 1. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
 2. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan.
 3. 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.
 4. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
 5. 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.
 6. 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.
 7. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.
 8. 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.
 9. To report to the council’s cabinet on a twice yearly basis.
 10. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
 11. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children’s services after each meeting.
 12. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

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

24 February 2015

- Annual report from Designated Doctor for Children Looked after
- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report
- Transition from Care to Independent Living (including availability of independent living accommodation)
- The effect of the recent developments in public health (transfer from NHS to council) on children in care
- Teenage pregnancies amongst children in care
- Report back on St. Christopher's project and invite for representatives from project to attend meeting.

Items to be programme 2015/16

- Destination data (deferred from 24 February 2015)
- Foster care training available, including foster carers experience
- Analysis of children out of borough who go missing and the numbers that actually return to their home
- Specific data that the committee should monitor to be aware of in order to promote placement stability
- Two or three examples/case studies of instability that has arisen in placements
- A readiness for school evaluation and clarification at the point at which the child/young persons enters care
- The experiences/practices of other local authorities in improving educational outcomes.

Ongoing/monitoring

4. Performance monitoring. Committee to receive report/s of any significant variations evident from the monthly performance review of looked after children and care leavers services.

Community impact statement

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

Resource implications

6. 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 |

AUDIT TRAIL

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|---|--|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care | |
| Report Author | Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 11 February 2015 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Director of Legal Services | No | No |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services | No | No |
| Cabinet Member | No | No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Team | 11 February 2015 | |