

<b>Item No.</b> 11.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 2 November 2015	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Corporate Parenting Committee – Work Plan 2015/16	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director, Children’s Social Care	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2015/16 as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. The constitution for the municipal year 2015/2016 records the corporate parenting committee’s role and functions 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.

### **2 November 2015**

- Annual report on fostering services
- Annual report on adoption services
- Feedback from autumn session on children going missing from care
- Update on looked after children strategy (following presentation to 13 July 2015 meeting)
- Audit of commissioning arrangements (as discussed under item “a public health approach to promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children” considered at 13 July 2015 meeting)
- Update on designated doctor appointment
- Care leavers and transition to adulthood
- Update on take-up of free swim and gym.

### **23 February 2016**

- Report back on St. Christopher’s Project in order to review the process (due February 2016)
- Annual virtual head teacher report.

### **Items in the programme 2015/16**

- 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
- Autism Strategy – to review progress
- Transition from care to independent living – report back on outcome of review of semi-independent living/supported housing
- Innovation Projects.

### **Corporate Parenting Committee Meetings with SpeakerBox**

4. 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. 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 team, senior managers and councillors.
5. The committee are due to meet with SpeakerBox in October 2015 and 16 February 2016.

### Community impact statement

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

### Resource implications

7. 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
<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>		

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
<b>Report Author</b>	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	20 October 2015	
<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>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
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