

## **HARROW COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF CORPORATE PARENTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER.**

Children who are Looked After may have significant and complex needs and, as such, form a discrete group who are vulnerable. As Corporate Parents, it is essential that all staff in People First and schools work together in partnership, so that Children Looked After may experience equality of educational opportunity allowing them to fulfil their potential.

To support this, the following principles will underpin the work of People First and schools:

- Children Looked After have an entitlement to appropriate full time education and to the same educational opportunities afforded to other children. Therefore, meeting the full range of educational needs of Children Looked After is a priority for People First and schools. In some cases this may include compensatory measures to provide additional or different interventions that may be required to support and meet the educational needs of Children Looked After.
- Corporate Parents must have high expectations and aspirations regarding the educational achievements of Children Looked After. To achieve this it may be necessary for Corporate Parents to challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes.
- Children Looked After have a right to continuity of education, from early years experiences to training and Lifelong Learning. Therefore, staff within People First and schools will plan for the stability and continuity of care and education placements in order to minimise disruption.
- Children Looked After are also entitled to experience the range of activities available to their peers. It is therefore, essential that staff in People First and schools are proactive in encouraging the participation of Children Looked After in after school activities, arts, leisure and youth activities.
- In order to meet the educational needs of Children Looked After, it is essential to ensure that appropriate communications and information are shared as a matter of priority between staff in People First and schools.
- Children Looked After are entitled to have their views taken into account in any decisions that affect their education and to have their achievements acknowledged and celebrated by staff in People First and schools.
- In order to secure these entitlements the People First Directorate and schools will identify and support key personnel within their structures to take strategic and operational responsibility for the education of Children Looked After and act as their champion.