

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	23 April 2015
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes, except for the recommendation to Council
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy Appendix 2 – Recommendation from the Corporate Parenting Panel

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The attached report sets out the Corporate Parenting Strategy which will form the framework for the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel and officers involved in the Corporate Parenting group.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Cabinet is requested to approve the Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Cabinet is requested to recommend the Strategy to Council for noting and to endorse the position that all Members should undertake training to ensure they understand and are able to meet their Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

Reasons (For recommendation): To ensure that all Members are aware of their responsibilities as Corporate Parents and the Council's current strategy for addressing the needs of Looked After Children.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

When a child comes into care, the council becomes the Corporate Parent. Put simply, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by the council. A child in the care of the council looks to the whole council to be the best parent it can be to that child. Every member and employee of the council has the statutory responsibility to act for that child in the same way that a good parent would act for their child.

Every good parent wants the best for their child, to see their child flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well at school, to enjoy good relationships with their peers. Make the most of leisure opportunities, hobbies and interests, and to grow towards adulthood equipped to lead independent lives and to make their way as adults in higher education, in good careers and jobs, and financially secure.

That's why Harrow Council has the same goals for the children it looks after as those of every good parent, and takes seriously the moral as well as legal responsibility for enabling the children in its care to experience happy and fulfilling lives.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy (Appendix 1) outlines our aspirations for looked after children and young people and sets out the actions we intend to take to achieve them.

Options considered

None.

Legal Implications

Set out detailed legal implications of the proposed decision. Where appropriate, liaise with the relevant legal officer and ensure that their clearances are obtained.

There are no specific legal implications from this report. The statutory framework regarding the concept of the 'corporate parent' and recent practice developments is summarised on p18 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy document accompanying this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the diversity in the CLA population and how these needs will be addressed

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for local businesses
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 13 April 2015		
Name: Helen Ottino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 10 April 2015		

Ward Councillors notified:

YES

EqIA carried out:

NO

[The Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the diversity in the CLA population and how these needs will be addressed.]

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Peter Tolley - Service Manager - Children's Placements and Children Looked After ext 6943

Kamini Rambellas, Divisional Director -Targeted Services

- **Background Papers:** [A councillors guide to being a good corporate parent](#)

Call-In Waived by the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

NOT APPLICABLE

[Call-in applies except for the Recommendation to Council.]