
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	21 April 2016
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the recommendation is for noting
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Update on Corporate Parenting Strategy Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014-2016 Appendix 3 – Recommendation from Corporate Parenting Panel on 12 April (to follow)

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the progress made on the Corporate Parenting Strategy presented to Council and Cabinet in 2015.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to: To note the strategy update and progress made.

Reason: All Councillors are Corporate Parents and need to be aware of how these responsibilities are being carried out.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

Looked After Children and Care Leavers are a vulnerable group. The Council has a responsibility to ensure those who have had a poor start to their lives and become Looked After are given high quality levels of care and support to ensure they are prepared for adulthood; and that good outcomes are achieved in their lives

The Strategy is attached at Appendix 2 and sets out the key priorities and specific actions which have previously been agreed at Cabinet. . Appendix 1 sets out progress on these actions. Members are invited to consider these appendices and ask questions to assure themselves that satisfactory progress is being made to meet the priorities set out in the Strategy.

The strategy outlines how Children Looked After In Harrow are provided with stable and secure placements and given support to ensure they are healthy and receive good quality education

Options considered

None, this is an update report on an agreed strategy.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

If Harrow does not fulfil its corporate parenting functions it would fail to meet the requirements of increased inspection and regulatory framework for delivering safe and secure services across our partnerships. There is also financial risk to the MTFS savings if placement sufficiency is not achieved as this could result in an increase in high cost placements.

Legal Implications

Once a child becomes looked after, the local authority has a number of duties towards him or her under the Children Act 1989 and associated legislation.

These include:

- (a) to safeguard and promote the child's welfare, including providing advice, assistance and befriending;
- (b) to provide services for the child in addition to accommodation;
- (c) to ascertain and give consideration to the wishes and feelings of the child and family members;
- (d) to provide a complaints procedure;
- (e) to keep a child's care plan under review.

The local authority also has duties to former looked after children.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report:

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Children Looked After in Harrow come from diverse backgrounds and have a range of needs which reflects that of the wider community. The Corporate Parenting strategy outlines how foster carers and placements are recruited to ensure these needs are met and how a range of services are available to meet their diverse needs. It also notes that the staff involved in working with Children Looked After reflect the local community

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

This update supports Harrow's Ambition plan and priority to protect the most vulnerable and support families; as well as being more business-like in commissioning and procurement to ensure best value in Children's placements

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 15 March 2016		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 17 March 2016		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	Not applicable [Update report]
EqIA cleared by:	N/A

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Peter Tolley, Head of Service Corporate Parenting, Children and Young People Service Division, People Services Directorate
Peter.tolley@harrow.gov.uk 02087366943

Background Papers:

- Corporate Parenting Panel 17.03.15
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=788&MId=62367&Ver=4>
- Cabinet Meeting 21.04.15 minutes
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/q62362/Printed%20minutes%20Thursday%2023-Apr-2015%2018.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>
- Full Council Meeting 24.09.15
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/q62629/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2024-Sep-2015%2019.30%20Council.pdf?T=10>
Minutes
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/q62629/Public%20minutes%20Thursday%2024-Sep-2015%2019.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NOT APPLICABLE <i>[Call-in does not apply where the Recommendation is for Noting only]</i>
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