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**REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel**

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**Date of Meeting:** 12 April 2016

**Subject:** **Corporate Parenting Strategy Update**

**Key Decision:** No

**Responsible Officer:** Chris Spencer,  
Corporate Director People Services

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Simon Brown,  
Portfolio Holder Children and Families

**Exempt:** No

**Decision subject to Call-in:** No

**Wards affected:** All Wards

**Enclosures:** Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy Update  
Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014-2016

## **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 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 .		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2016.		
<b>EqIA carried out:</b>	Not applicable	
<b>EqIA cleared by:</b>	Update report	

## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

### Contact:

Peter Tolley,  
Head of Service - Corporate Parenting, Children and Young People  
Service Division, People Services Directorate  
Email : Peter.tolley@harrow.gov.uk  
Tel : 0208 736 6943

### Background Papers:

- Corporate Parenting Panel 17.03.15
- Cabinet Meeting 21.04.15 minutes  
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g62362/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/g62629/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2024-Sep-2015%2019.30%20Council.pdf?T=10>  
Minutes  
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g62629/Public%20minutes%20Thursday%2024-Sep-2015%2019.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

**[Note: Cabinet Decision of 23 April 2015 re: *Background Papers*: ‘That the reference be received and officers be reminded that all Part I background papers be listed on reports presented to Cabinet and that they be published in line with the requirements set out in the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012’.**

*Background Papers are documents used to prepare the report and defined as those which:*

- relate to the subject matter of the decision, or part of the decision;*
- disclose relevant facts or matters on which the decision or an important part of the decision is based; and*
- were relied on to a material extent in making the decision.]*

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

**NOT APPLICABLE**