

REPORT FOR: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	13 July 2017
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the decision is reserved to Council
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017 to 2019 Recommendation from Corporate Parenting Panel

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Recommendations:

To approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017 – 2019, as recommended by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 14th June 2017, and recommend the Strategy to Council.

Reason for Recommendation: 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 and sets out the key priorities

Regular performance reports are submitted to the Corporate Parenting Panel alongside which the priorities outlined in the strategy can be measured

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

Ofsted looked at the strategy as part of its inspection in January 2017 and noted that the strategy is detailed and sets out clear priorities and areas for improvement

Options considered

None this is an information report

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

If Harrow does not fulfil its corporate parenting functions it would fail to meet its statutory duties and 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 extensive duties to former looked after children.

Once relevant provisions of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, which received Royal Assent on 27th April 2017, come into force, the local authority's duties to care leavers will be further extended and the local authority will have to have regard to seven corporate parenting principles when carrying out its statutory functions in respect of children in its care and relevant care leavers (s1).

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 May 2017		
Name: Helen Ottino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 15 June 2017		

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

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:

- 1) Corporate Parenting Panel Minutes 14th June 2017
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g64154/Printed%20minutes%20Wednesday%2014-Jun-2017%2019.30%20Corporate%20Parenting%20Panel.pdf?T=1>
- 2) Minutes of Cabinet April 2016
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g62623/Printed%20minutes%20Thursday%2021-Apr-2016%2018.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>

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

NOT APPLICABLE

*[Call-in does not apply as the
decision is reserved to Council]*