

**REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting
Panel**

Date of Meeting: 30 October 2017

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT –
Participation report**

Responsible Officer: Chris Spencer, Corporate Director
People Services

Exempt:

Wards affected: All wards.

Enclosures: Appendix 1 –
Participation Strategy Annual Report
2016-17

Section 1 – Summary

This reports summarises the participation activities for Looked After Children over the past 12 months

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

As Corporate Parents, we have a responsibility to engage with Looked After Young People to ensure their wishes and feelings are represented in our plans and activities. The Corporate Parenting Panel has a responsibility to ensure that it meets directly with Children Looked After and young people. During the Ofsted Inspection in January 2017, the Inspectors met with two groups of Children Looked After; a younger group and an older group. The Inspectors were impressed with the service and activities arranged. This was noted in the final inspection report and played a significant role in the overall grading of 'good'.

The participation strategy annual report 2016-17 is attached as Appendix 1 and will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel on 30 October by the Participation Officer and a group of Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Section 3 – Financial Implications

The Participation Officer works within a small annual budget of £10,000 to provide activities and events for Children Looked After and care leavers. She has also been proactive in identifying local sponsors who have donated some finance and also some free or discounted activities.

Section 4 - Equalities implications

These activities are open to all Children Looked After and include a diverse range of interests and are informed by the young people themselves. This includes Harrow Children Looked After placed out of borough and a wide range of ages, mixed gender groups and young people from different ethnic backgrounds including asylum seeking young people.

Section 5 – 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

Looked After children are a vulnerable group and are children from the local community. Their positive experience in care also makes a difference for families.

Name:.....Jo Frost.....

on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 17th October
2017.....

Ward Councillors notified:

NO – affects all wards

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Shana Hart, Participation Officer, tel. 020 8736 6614

Background Papers: None