

# CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

## MINUTES

### 3 JULY 2018

<b>Chair:</b>	* Councillor Angella Murphy-Strachan	
<b>Councillors:</b>	* Sue Anderson	* Janet Mote
	* Maxine Henson (2)	* Christine Robson
	* Dr Lesline Lewinson (1)	
<b>Non-Voting Advisory Member:</b>	† Valerie Griffin	
<b>Officers:</b>	Paul Hewitt	(Interim Corporate Director, People)
	Barbara Houston	(Head of Service, Corporate Parenting)
	Jacinta Kane	(Team Manager VVE, CSE Co-ordinator)
	Zoe Sergeant	(Associate Director for Children, CNWL)
	Peter Tolley	(Interim Divisional Director Children & Young People)
	Mellina Williamson-Taylor	(Headteacher Harrow Virtual School)

- \* Denotes Member present
- (1) and (2) Denote category of Reserve Members
- † Denotes apologies received

## RECOMMENDED ITEMS

### 10. Updated corporate parenting strategy

The Panel received a report of the Corporate Director, People, which provided an update on the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Following questions & comments from Members, an officer advised that:

- the provision of a Later Life letter was a statutory requirement for all children placed with adoptive parents. These were more detailed and contained more personal history than a social worker's case notes. They were written by the child's Social Worker in conjunction with the adopters' Social Worker and were given to prospective adopters. The expectation was that the letter would be addressed to the child, but given to the adoptive parents for safe keeping. The letter provided the child with an explanation of why he/she was adopted;
- 'Letterbox books' was an initiative whereby across the UK, young CLAs received their own parcel of books, stationery and other high quality materials once every month for six months, from May to October. For many children, it was the first time they had received a letter or a parcel through the post and for some it was the first time they have had books of their own. Research had shown that this initiative had led to improved reading ages among these children. There was a similar scheme for older children.

A Member stated that the inclusion of a foster carer as an adviser to the Panel had proved fruitful and suggested that a second foster carer should be invited to join the Panel as a reserve to the current adviser. She added that the current adviser should be formally written to confirm her re-appointment to the Panel. This was agreed by the Panel. An officer undertook to seek nominations for a reserve adviser.

Members were of the view that the participation of CLAs at previous Panel meetings had been fruitful and a cohort should be invited to participate at a future meeting of the Panel in 2018/19. An officer undertook to arrange this. He added that the Corporate Parenting Strategy would be submitted to both Cabinet and Council for approval later in the year.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:**

That the Cabinet be recommended to approve the Updated Corporate Parenting Strategy.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 8.27 pm).