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**REPORT FOR: CABINET**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 September 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017-2019
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Paul Hewitt, Interim Corporate Director of People
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	No, as the decision is reserved to Council
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017 to 2019 Appendix 2 – Recommendation of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting held on 3 July 2018

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

**Recommendations:**

That Cabinet approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017-2019 and Priorities set out in the Strategy, as recommended by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 3 July 2018, and recommend the Strategy to Full Council.

**Reason: (For recommendations)**

All Councillors are Corporate Parents and need to understand and confirm how these responsibilities are being carried out. To adhere to the requirements of the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

Looked After Children and Care Leavers are a vulnerable group. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that those children 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 was detailed and included clear priorities and areas for improvement.

This Strategy was endorsed at the Corporate Parenting Panel on 3 July 2018.

### **Options Considered**

The Strategy identifies options considered in relation to placements, residential care and family group conferences.

### **Risk Management Implications**

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.

### **Procurement Implications**

None.

## **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 care leavers and former looked after which are noted in the strategy

## **Financial Implications**

None as no decision on funding is being requested.

## **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**

This report incorporates the following of the Councils priorities:

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families.

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 24 May 2018		
Name: Banaz Draey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 3 August 2018		

### **Section 3 - Procurement Officer Clearance**

Name: Nimesh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Procurement
Date: 20 July 2018		

<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	<b>NO, as impacts on all Wards</b>
<b>EqIA carried out:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>EqIA cleared by:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact: Peter Tolley, Interim Divisional Director of Children and Young People**  
Email: peter.tolley@harrow.gov.uk  
Tel: 020 8736 6978

**Background Papers:**

- 1) Corporate Parenting Panel

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g64496/Printed%20minutes%20Tuesday%2003-Jul-2018%2019.00%20Corporate%20Parenting%20Panel.pdf?T=1>

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

**NOT APPLICABLE**

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