
REPORT FOR: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date of Meeting: 2nd October 2019

Subject: Corporate Parenting Strategy

Key Decision: No

Responsible Officer: Paul Hewitt Corporate Director People Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Christine Robson , Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Exempt: No

Decision subject to No the decision is reserved to Council.

Call-in:

Wards affected: All wards

Enclosures: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019 to 2021

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the Corporate Parenting Strategy

Recommendations:

To note and comment on the Corporate Parenting Strategy for referral to Cabinet for its consideration and recommendation to Council for approval.

Reason: 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

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

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

In accordance with the Council's constitution, one of the roles of the panel is to consider and regularly review on an annual basis a corporate parenting strategy setting out key priorities and areas for action. The Corporate Parenting strategy will be submitted to Cabinet and full council for consideration and decision on approval.

Once a child becomes looked after, the local authority has a number of duties towards him or her under Children Act 1989 and associated legislation. In addition the local authority has duties to care leavers. 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 Children and Social Work Act 2017 outlines 7 Corporate Parenting principles

- a) To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Looked After Children and Care Leavers
- b) To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- c) To take into account the views wishes and feelings of those young people
- d) To help those children and young people gain access to , and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- e) To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- f) For those children and young people to be safe , and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- g) To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and Independent living

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

Please identify how the decision sought delivers these priorities.

1. Building a Better Harrow

- Create a thriving modern, inclusive and vibrant Harrow that people can be proud to call home
- Increase the supply of genuinely affordable and quality housing for Harrow residents
- Ensure every Harrow child has a school place
- Keep Harrow clean
- More people are actively engaged in sporting, artistic and cultural activities in ways that improve physical and mental health and community cohesion

2. Supporting Those Most in Need

- Reduce levels of homelessness in the borough
- Empower residents to maintain their well-being and independence
- Children and young people are given the opportunities to have the best start in life and families can thrive
- Reduce the gap in life expectancy in the borough

3. Protecting Vital Public Services

- Harrow has a transport infrastructure that supports economic growth, improves accessibility and supports healthy lifestyles
- Healthcare services meet the needs of Harrow residents
- Everyone has access to high quality education
- A strong and resourceful community sector, able to come together to deal with local issues
- Harrow continues to be one of the safest boroughs in London

4. Delivering a Strong local Economy for All

- A strong, vibrant local economy where local businesses and thrive and grow
- Reduce levels of in-work poverty and improve people's job opportunities
- Harrow is a place where people and businesses invest

5. Modernising Harrow Council

- Deliver excellent value for money services
- Reduce the borough's carbon footprint
- Use technology and innovation to modernise how the Council works
- Improving access to digital services

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 20 th September 2019		
Name: Aarti Hansrani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 26 th September 2019		
Name: Paul Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director
Date: 20 th September 2019		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	NO
EqIA cleared by:	Update report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Peter Tolley, Divisional Director Children and Young People

Background Papers: None