

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date of Meeting:	10 January 2012
Subject:	Display for Councillors
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Catherine Doran, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mitzi Green, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets a proposal for publicising the work of Corporate Parenting and Beyond Limits (Harrow's Children in Care Council).

Recommendation: that

- The Panel request the Corporate Director of Children's Services to set up a display for Councillors - by members of Corporate Parenting and Beyond Limits - at a time that full Council meet in order to engage all Councillors;
- This year's display to be set up prior to the 12 April Council meeting;
- Corporate Parenting considers other means by which to engage Councillors in the needs of children looked after.

Reason: (For recommendation)

There is an expectation on Local Authorities from the white paper, 'Care Matters-Time for Change, 2007' and subsequent legislation that councillors understand their corporate parenting responsibilities towards children in care and are committed to fulfilling them.

Corporate Parenting Panel has a pivotal role in promoting the needs of children looked after

Section 2 – Report

Background

In September 1998 Frank Dobson, the then Secretary of State for Health, wrote to all councillors to launch Quality Protects, a five-year programme to transform children's services, underlining their vital role in driving forward the initiative. This launched the concept of corporate parenting and placed collective responsibility on all local authorities to achieve good parenting for all children in the public care. It requires ownership and leadership at a senior level and includes all elected members.

Following on from the plans set out in the white paper, 'Care Matters – A time for Change, 2007', the Children and Young Persons Act, 2008, placed a number of requirements upon Local Authorities and Elected Members, the aim being to improve outcomes for children in care and their families, with corporate parenting, and listening to the views of children and young people being key elements.

There is rolling programme of officer led induction training for Councillors in relation to their Corporate Parenting responsibilities

In addition, members of Corporate Parenting have participated in training events with children looked after which have also been attended by the wider Councillor group.

However, the Cabinet approval of the establishment of Beyond Limits on 18th November 2010, together with their terms of reference and the Harrow Pledge to children looked after, provides a further opportunity to consider a wider engagement with other Councillors.

The setting up of an annual display is seen as one of a number of initiatives by Corporate Parenting, together with Beyond Limits to promote the needs of children looked after with the wider Councillor group.

There was a very successful display prior the April Council meeting in 2011. Young people represented by Beyond Limits and Young Voices interacted with Members, and with assistance from Panel and the Participation Officers

for children looked children after promoted the work of both Panel and Beyond Limits.

Options considered

None

Implications of the Recommendation

Approval of the recommendations will provide one of a number of possible means of highlighting both the needs of children looked after and the corporate parenting responsibilities of elected members.

Financial Implications

The financial cost for any printing and leaflets is being met by way of the Care Matters grant which is within the base budget held by the Divisional Director, Targeted Services, Children's Services. No additional cost is anticipated.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? **No**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

Corporate Priorities

The corporate priority this report incorporates is:

- Improve support for vulnerable people

It will provide an opportunity to engage the wider Councillor group with the needs of children looked after and their responsibilities as Corporate Parents.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 9 December 2011		
Name: Helen Ottino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 9 December 2011		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Andreas Kyriacou, Quality Assurance Manager, Vulnerable Children andreas.kyriacou@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None