

## Scrutiny Review of Corporate Parenting

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is currently undertaking a scrutiny review on corporate parenting. This is being done by a small panel of Members chaired by Councillor Joseph Ejiofor. As part of this, they will be considering how Councillors could be assisted further in their role. To assist us with this we would like you to take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire. It should only take about 10 minutes of your time. Please complete the questionnaire by **Friday 25 February 2011**. Please start the survey on the next page.

**Please note**, the survey needs session cookies enabled on your browser, otherwise you may experience problems filling in the survey. We use session cookies to allow you to page through the survey without losing any information. No personal information is stored or obtained from your computer. If you're unsure how to enable session cookies, please visit [www.haringey.gov.uk/cookies](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/cookies).

### Q1 How aware do you feel you are of your role and responsibilities as a corporate parent?

5 (31.3%) Very aware  
 9 (56.3%) Quite aware  
 2 (12.5%) Aware  
 0 (0.0%) Not aware  
 0 (0.0%) Unaware

### Q2 Have you received specific information about your role and responsibilities as a corporate parent?

Yes 16 (100.0%)  
 No 0 (0.0%)

### Q3 Do you think that the information that has been provided by the Council has been;

Too much 0 (0.0%)  
 Just about right 14 (87.5%)  
 Not enough 2 (12.5%)

### Q4 Are there any issues which you feel that you would like further information about? (Please tick all that apply)

Your role as corporate parent 2 (12.5%)  
 Policies and strategies around looked after children 6 (37.5%)  
 Services that the council provides for children in care 4 (25.0%)  
 Data around children in care 7 (43.8%)  
 Other 2 (12.5%)  
 If other, please specify 3 (18.8%)

### Q5 How often do you receive information about children in the Council's care?

0 (0.0%) Daily  
 1 (6.3%) Twice a week  
 10 (62.5%) Rarely  
 1 (6.3%) Weekly  
 4 (25.0%) Monthly

### Q6 Do you feel that you have a good knowledge of;

|   | Yes       | No         |
|---|-----------|------------|
| How many children are in care?          | 9 (56.3%) | 7 (43.8%)  |
| How well they are doing in education?   | 6 (37.5%) | 10 (62.5%) |
| What support there is for care leavers? | 5 (31.3%) | 11 (68.8%) |

**Q7 Have you attended any training events about your role as a corporate parent?**

16 (100.0%) Yes

0 (0.0%) No

**Q8 Do you think that the training that has been provided by the Council has been;**

0 (0.0%) Too much

10 (62.5%) Just about right

5 (31.3%) Not enough

**Q9 Have you been given the opportunity to listen to the views of children and young people in care?**

9 (56.3%) Yes

6 (37.5%) No

1 (6.3%) Not sure

**Q10 If no, would you like to be given the opportunity to talk to young people in care?**

11 (68.8%) Yes

1 (6.3%) No

**Q11 Do you think that you are well informed about the issues that concern children and young people in the Council's care?**

4 (25.0%) Yes

7 (43.8%) No

5 (31.3%) Not sure

**Q12 Are you aware of arrangements by the Council to celebrate the achievements of children and young people in care or with foster carers?**

6 (37.5%) Yes

7 (43.8%) No

3 (18.8%) Not sure

**Q13 Is there anything else that you would like to add about any of the issues raised ?**

5 (31.3%)

**Q14 Please give details of anything else that you feel might help you further in your role as a corporate parent?**

4 (25.0%)

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey**

## **Literal Responses**

There were 3 responses to the other option in Question 4

### **Q4 Are there any OTHER issues which you feel that you would like further information about?**

Serious issues raised by corporate parents need to have a response and need to be followed through by Senior Management.

all of them on a more regular basis just to remind me.

educational performance cf. non-care children .

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### **There were 5 responses to question 13 - Is there anything else that you would like to add about any of the issues raised?**

All children's services care / education etc is an area that i do not get very involved in as time management issues have made me decide this is not an area i can be involved in.

How will your objectives resolve on-going problems? The in-house training has been diluted and self inspection is dangerous.

It's difficult being a corporate parent when you don't know any of the children. The word 'parent' is misleading because you are not allowed to parent in a way you'd parent your own children. If my own kids refused to get out of bed and go to school or smashed up the furniture there would be sanctions. My children aren't consulted about which doctor to use or whether they should go for a dental check up. As a parent I believe that children need to know what the boundaries are, and are relieved by having them. If boundaries and sanctions are almost non existent then they will push to the limit and it becomes impossible to parent effectively.

No

The children in the Council's own homes are among the least 'engaged' with education and other opportunities despite a high 'per head' cost. A review (perhaps scrutiny, perhaps just officer-led) of what we do and possible alternatives for these young people might produce valuable experience from elsewhere, to the ultimate benefit of the young people.

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### **There were 4 responses to question 14 – Please give details of anything else that you feel might help you further in your role as a corporate parent?**

Senior management to act and follow through on serious issues affecting LAC's.

With one or two notable exceptions this is very much seen as a role for female councillors. If we are called 'parents' we should have more dealings with the children. Perhaps councillors could be given 10 anonymised cases each so they can follow how 'their' children are doing. Currently they are largely viewed as a set of statistics.

worth reminding members of their responsibilities

Better awareness of different ways of tackling the problem of young people in care,  
and good practice from UK and Europe.