



Agenda item:

No.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On 9 May 2011

Report Title. Scrutiny Review – Corporate Parenting

Report of Councillor Ejiofor, Chair of Review Panel

Contact Officer : Robert Mack, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer Tel: 0208 489 2921

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non Key Decision

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

That Members approve the report and recommendations of the review, as outlined in the report.

2. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- Council Plan: A thriving Haringey and a caring Haringey
- Sustainable Community Strategy outcome: Economic vitality and prosperity shared by all

3. Recommendation

3.1 That the report and its recommendations be approved and referred to Cabinet for a response.

4. Reasons for recommendations

Please refer to the scrutiny review report (attached)

5. Other options considered

Please refer to the scrutiny review report (attached)

6. Chief Financial Officer Comments

6.1 A number of recommendations in this report have the potential for direct financial implications; in particular recommendations 11 and 12. In addition recommendations 13 and 14 also suggest specific actions. In all of these cases it is important that the actions are taken forward in a way which ensures that financial issues are considered and resolved fully before decisions are finally taken.

7. Head of Legal Services Comments

7.1 The concept of Corporate Parenting is defined in the statutory guidance issued under the Children Act 2004 to support the role of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services and also in the statutory guidance issued to support the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010. This recognises that Councils and their partner agencies should share the role of corporate parent to act as the best possible parent for each child they look after and to advocate on his/her behalf to secure the best possible outcomes for them.

8. Head of Procurement Comments

N/A

9. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

As outlined within the report, looked after children and young people (LACY) suffer significantly poorer outcomes than other children. In particular, they have lower levels of educational attainment and higher rates of unemployment, poor mental health, imprisonment and teenage pregnancy. The report considers how the Council and its partners seek address these issues and makes recommendations for improvement.

10. Consultation

10.1 The review sought and received evidence from a wide range of stakeholders. In particular, it listened to the views of a groups of foster carers and care leavers and undertook a survey of Councillors.

11. Service Financial Comments: The retaining of specific sexual health provision for

looked after children will require additional budget savings to be made elsewhere in order to compensate. The provision of free leisure passes for all LACYP will have budgetary implications for the Leisure Service but these may be difficult to quantify as they will be dependent on the level of potential lost income from LACYP using leisure facilities who would otherwise have been required to pay. There are currently 609 children in care but around 70% of these are in out of borough placements so might not be in a position to take advantage of the offer of free passes. Other recommendations may also have some financial implications but further work will be required to quantify the size and nature of these.

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The background papers relating to this report are:

- The Role of Councillors as Corporate Parents – Rotherham MBC Lifelong Learning Opportunities Scrutiny Panel
- Aspects Of The Council’s Corporate Parenting Responsibilities – Middlesbrough Children and Learning Scrutiny Committee
- Children Looked After by Camden – Camden Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Committee
- Children and Young People’s Strategic Plan – Haringey Council
- The Role of Councillors as Corporate Parents – Wakefield MDC Children’s Services Scrutiny Working Group
- If This Were My Child – A Councillors Guide to Being a Good Corporate Parent – Department for Education and Skills/LGiU
- Show Me How I Matter; A Guide to the education of Looked After Children – LGA/IdEA
- London Borough of Greenwich Corporate Parenting Review Jan 2010 - PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Children’s Services Consulting Team

These can be obtained from Robert Mack, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on 0208 489 2921, 7th Floor, River Park House,
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