

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 2 July 2018

Item number:

Title: Role of Corporate Parenting

Report

authorised by :  Ann Graham, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer: Sarah Alexander, Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Lead Practitioner, 020 8489 7061, sarah.alexander@haringey.gov.uk.

Ward(s) affected: NA

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non-Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This is a brief report setting out the role of Councillors as Corporate Parent.

2. Recommendations

2.1 For Members to receive the report and take account of their duties as corporate parents.

3. Background information

3.1 In 1998, the *Quality Protects* programme first introduced the concept of Corporate Parenting. More recently, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined for the first time in law the responsibility of corporate parents to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences for looked after children and young people, and care leavers.

What does being a corporate parent mean?

3.2. As a Haringey corporate parent, it is every councillor's responsibility to make sure that the council is meeting its duties towards children in care and care leavers. Children can be in care in a range of different settings, with the authority acting as corporate parent to all of them.

3.2 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out the corporate parenting principles which states that when a child or young person comes into the care of the local authority, or is under 25 and was looked-after by the authority for at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday, the authority becomes their corporate parent. The seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when

exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people are:

- act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- 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;
- promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

The Role of Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel

- 3.3 The Haringey Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel (CPAC) provides a forum for regular, detailed discussion of issues, assurance that services are providing positive outcomes for looked after children and young people, and a positive link with Aspire, the Haringey children in care forum.
- 3.4 Members of CPAC can use their position to raise awareness of the role amongst councillor colleagues, consider changes to legislation that affect looked after children and young people and provide support to the lead member for children and families.
- 3.5 In addition, senior officers from areas such as health and housing that have a significant impact on children in care and care leavers, report on issues in their specialist field to the panel.

Conclusion

- 3.6 Effective corporate parenting means strong leadership, challenge and accountability at every level and measuring how the child or young person experiences the support they receive and the extent to which they feel listened to, taken seriously and acted upon in their best interests.

4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

Priority 1 – Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.