

Report for: Cabinet – 13 June 2023

Title: Establishment of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Appointment of Cabinet Members to Committees and Partnerships 2023/24 & Confirmation of their Terms of Reference.

Report authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non-Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 To re-establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, confirm its terms of reference, and appoint Members to serve on this advisory Cabinet sub-Committee.
- 1.2 To confirm the terms of reference of the Community Safety Partnership and appoint members to this statutory partnership body.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is responsible for the Council's role as corporate parent for children and young people in care. Its purpose is to ensure that the health, education and access to employment of children in care is maximised, to monitor the quality of care provided, and also to ensure that children leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future. It is proposed to continue with the current arrangement for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.
- 2.2 The Community Safety Partnership plays an important role in ensuring that key local agencies are brought together to improve outcomes for our residents across different service areas.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 3.1.1 To re-establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, and that the terms of reference for this advisory Sub Committee, attached at Appendix A be noted.
- 3.1.2 To note the Community Safety Partnership terms of reference attached at Appendix B;

- 3.1.3 To appoint the following Members to serve on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Community Safety Partnership:

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Chair – Cllr Brabazon Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families

Cllr Ali

Cllr Collett

Cllr Johnson

Cllr Opoku

Cllr Weston

Cllr Isilar-Gosling

Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion (as Co-Chair)

Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families

Cllr da Costa

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1.1 Establishing a Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee ensures that there is an overview of the Councillors statutory role as a corporate parent, assisting the Council to deliver its duties to children in care and young people leaving care.
- 4.1.2 Appointments from Cabinet are required to the Community Safety Partnership to reflect statutory duties and enable high level, accountable, strategic, oversight of issues relating community safety.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1.1 The alternative option would be for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to cease and this would mean that there is not a scheduled opportunity for members and officers to meet and discuss the wellbeing of children in care and to ensure that the Council is meeting its corporate parenting obligations. This Committee is different to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel as it concentrates on Looked After Children and care leavers and reports directly to the Cabinet.
- 5.1.2 The Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership body and therefore not appointing Cabinet Members to this body is not an option.

6. Background information

- 6.1.1 All Councillors, when they are elected, take on the responsibility of corporate parents to children that are looked after by their local authority. This means that they have a duty to take an interest in the well being and development of these children who are one of the most vulnerable groups in society.
- 6.1.2 The Corporate Parenting Committee has an overview of the Council's role as Corporate Parent for children and young people who are in care. It is responsible for ensuring that the life chances of children in care are maximised in terms of health, educational attainment and access to training and employment, in order to aid the transition to a secure and fulfilling adulthood.

6.1.3 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body established pursuant to sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CSP fulfils the duty placed on local authorities to address community safety in partnership with the Police and other partners.

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes

7.1 'Children and young people' – the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee contributes to this outcome as it has an overview of the Council's role as Corporate Parent for children and young people who are in care.

7.2 'Safer Borough' - The Community Safety Partnership supports meeting this objective.

8. Statutory Officers comments

8.1 Finance

8.1.1 These Committees can be serviced from within existing business unit resources. Members should note that these Committees do not have the authority to incur expenditure or make budgetary decisions.

8.2 Procurement

8.2.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

8.3 Legal

8.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted on the contents of this report.

8.3.2 The Council's Constitution sets out the relevant Cabinet arrangements at Part Three, Section C and confirms that the Cabinet may establish advisory Committees the membership of which does not have to be limited to Cabinet Members. The Cabinet may change them, abolish them, or create further ones, at its own discretion. These powers must be exercised with the agreement of the Leader and may be exercised by the Leader personally.

8.3.3 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body established pursuant to sections 5 -7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CSP fulfils the duty placed on local authorities to address community safety in partnership with the Police and other partners.

8.4 Equality

8.4.1 There are no specific equalities and cohesion implications to the proposals made in this report.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix A - Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
Appendix B - Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985