


Report for: Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
5 January 2016

Item number:

Title: Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy and Vision

Report authorised by : 
Jon Abbey, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer: Dominic Porter-Moore, Dominic.porter-moore@haringey.gov.uk
020 8489 1011

Ward(s) affected: NA

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

The development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy will support Priority 1 objectives specifically for Looked After children and set out how the Council and its partner agencies will act as responsible parents for children and young people in care as well as young people leaving care who are entitled to support.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

It is imperative that as corporate parents we not only understand our role and responsibilities but share and articulate our aspiration and vision for young people in care. Good and effective Local Authorities have a shared vision and a strategy which provides the actions and timeframes to provide the very best outcomes for Looked After children and this is an important document for consideration and discussion by Members.

3. Recommendations

Members are asked to discuss the first draft of the strategy.

4. Reasons for decision

The draft strategy outlines our vision and aspirations for Looked After children. It emphasises and reinforces the corporate responsibilities of the Council and all partner agencies, through a range of policies and local initiatives which promote good practice and outcomes for Looked after children, so that they can fulfil their role as corporate parents.

5. Alternative options considered

Research was undertaken on strategies from other authorities. The proposed strategy is felt to be the most appropriate for Haringey.

6. Background information

This issue was raised at the last meeting of CPAC in October 2015 at which the Director of Children's Services indicated that he would bring a draft plan / vision to the next meeting. The attached draft is a first attempt and should be viewed as a start to the discussion.

The Council's responsibilities and duty towards its Looked After children are highly prescribed and regulated through Government guidance and legislation.

The council's commitment to our Looked After children is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) and is the body with responsibility for facilitating the Council's role as corporate parent for children and young people in care. They seek to ensure that the health, education and access to employment of children in care is maximised, monitor the quality of care provided, and also ensure that children leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future.

Discussions will be held with Aspire members and the LSCB to ensure that the voice of the child is included in the strategy.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

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

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

NA

Equality

In accordance with the principles set out in the Children Act 1989, Haringey's services for Looked After children are premised upon the belief that in most circumstances children and young people are best looked after within their own families.

However, there will always be some children and young people for whom being in the care of Haringey Council will be in their best interests. These children and young people deserve the highest quality services to ensure both that they are not disadvantaged from their peers, and also that any disadvantages which they may have suffered prior to coming into care are redressed. Haringey Council, as a corporate parent, seeks to remove any and all barriers that may exist in

order to enable looked after children and young people to achieve their full potential.

9. Use of Appendices

Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

a. Children Act 1989

b. Report: *Care Matters: Time for Change* (2007)

[Care matters: time for change - Gov.uk](#) *

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