

Corporate Parenting Panel Supplementary Agenda



6. **Terms of Reference** (Pages 3 - 10)
The Terms of Reference for Corporate Parenting Panel is attached.

9. **Children's Social Care Placement Sufficiency & Update on South London Commissioning Programme** (Pages 11 - 16)
This report provides an update on the progress of the South London Commissioning Programme and Sufficiency Strategy.

KATHERINE KERSWELL
Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
London Borough of Croydon
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Michelle Ossei-Gerning
020 8726 6000 x84246
michelle.gerning@croydon.gov.uk
www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings

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REPORT TO:	CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
AGENDA ITEM NO:	23 June 2022
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, MEMBERSHIP, DATES AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
LEAD OFFICER:	ROISIN MADDEN DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
WARDS:	ALL
FINANCIAL IMPACT Implementation of the recommendations contained in this report shall be contained within existing budgets.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:

- 1.1 Consider and review its Membership (including the role of the co-opted members), Terms of Reference, together with dates and frequency of future meetings as set out in Appendix 1, 2 and 3 respectively;
- 1.2 Agree any next steps required;

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has determined that the Corporate Parenting Panel shall be responsible for receiving and considering reports on matters focusing on improving outcomes for children looked after by Croydon Council.
- 2.2 It is good practice for the Panel at its first meeting following Annual Council to consider and, where necessary, review its terms of reference, membership, frequency, dates and timing of its future meetings.
- 2.3 Ensuring the Panel's terms of reference are accurate and effectively supports the work of the Panel.
- 2.4 Members are therefore asked to consider these matters and agree any next steps required.

3. DETAIL

Annual establishment, terms of reference and dates of meetings.

- 3.1 At the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday 25 May the Council approved the proportionality and establishment of Committees and Panels of the authority including the Corporate Parenting Panel and appointment of Members thereto.
- 3.2 It is good practice that, following the Annual Council meeting, the committees that have been established to note their Membership, Terms of Reference (Terms of Reference), and the dates of meetings for the duration of the municipal year. The Membership is set out in Appendix 1 of this report. The Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The Constitution requires for Corporate Parenting Panel to meet 6 times per municipal year as set out in Appendix 3. Meetings start at 5pm.

Membership.

- 3.4 Full Council has agreed that the Panel shall be appointed in that the Corporate Parenting Panel shall be composed of 8 Members including 6 non-voting Co-opted Members.
- 3.5 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Maria Gatland, was also appointed as Chair for the municipal year at the Full Council meeting on 25 May 2022.

Terms of Reference.

- 3.6 Members will note in Appendix 2 the Terms of Reference which is re-established annually as an informal advisory body to the Cabinet Member responsible for Children and Young People.

Dates and frequency of meetings.

- 3.7 Members will note from Appendix 3 that the calendar of meetings proposes that the committee meet 6 times throughout the municipal year. Members will also note that there is a separate item relating to the committee Work Programme elsewhere on this agenda.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Members should now consider and, if necessary, review its membership, terms of reference and meeting calendar schedule from previous.
- 4.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel should make any suggested amendments to its membership to Full Council for consideration.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The proportional balance of the Council was reviewed by all members at full council on 25 May and committees and their membership duly appointed. The underlining purpose of this report is to consult the Panel's membership on the issues detailed above.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 N/A

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 N/A

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS.

There are no HR implications arising from this report for Croydon Council employees or staff. If any should arise these will be managed under the Council's policies and procedures.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Sec 149 Equality Act 2010. The Council must therefore have due regard to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2011(section 149) places a public sector equality duty (section 146) on the Council. The duty requires the Council to have due regard to *the need to advance equality of opportunity* between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 9.2 Having "due regard" to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to *encourage persons* who share a relevant protected characteristic *to participate in public life* or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

- 9.3 When drawing up the schedule of dates, consideration was given to avoiding school holiday dates and known dates of religious holidays and other key/important dates around culture, diversity and inclusion where at all possible.
- 9.4 The full impacts of Covid 19, the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis may not be apparent at this time and could possibly lead to more parents experiencing additional pressure in relation to physical and mental disabilities and economic hardship. Data on the protected characteristics of service users should be collated by the department to ensure that the impact across communities can be ascertained. Subsequently young people transitioning from Children’s social care to Adults Social Care could impact heavily on budget dependent on the needs of individuals identified

Approved by: Denise McCausland Equalities Programme Manager.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS.

There are no data protection implications arising from the proposal.

CONTACT OFFICERS: Michelle Ossei-Gerning, Democratic Services Officer (ext. 84246)

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

- Appendix 1 – Membership of the Committee
- Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference of the Committee
- Appendix 3 – Dates of future meetings

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

**Appendix 1
Corporate Parenting Panel**

Membership of the Panel

Councillors (including Chair):

Majority Group Members 4	Minority Group Members 4
Maria Gatland (Chair)	Mike Bonello
Sue Bennett	Maddie Henson
Helen Redfern	Tamar Nwafor
Samir Dwesar	Catherine Wilson

Independent Co-opted Members (Non-Voting):

Virtual School Head
Children Looked After Designated Health Professionals
Children in Care Council/EMPIRE
Care Leaver Representative
Foster Carer Representative
Health Commissioners

Terms of Reference of the Panel

Constitution

Part 6.E – TERMS OF REFERENCE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Established: First established 2007 and re-established annually since then as an informal advisory body to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services.

Regularity of meetings: 6 times per year.

Membership: 8 Members - 4:4

4 Members of the Administration, including and to be chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services.

4 Members of the Opposition

6 Co – Opted Members:

- Virtual School Head
- LAC Nurse/Doctor
- Children in Care Council/EMPIRE
- Care leaver
- Foster carer
- Health Commissioner

Proportionality: Not applicable

Democratic Services & Governance Officer:

Michelle Gerning 0208 726 6000 ext 84246

Lead Officers:

- Director of Children's Social Care
- Head of Children's Social Care

Quorum: 3

Access to information:

Due to the nature of the work of the Panel and its Membership, meetings of the Panel are not able to be held in public, however, agenda papers and minutes are made available on the Council's website. Agenda papers are published five clear working days in advance of Panel meetings. Councillors that are not Members of the Panel are permitted to attend meetings at the discretion of the Panel Chair.

Terms of Reference (Revised 2019):

- The Corporate Parenting Panel will focus on improving outcomes for children looked after by Croydon Council.
- To support the Council's development of a corporate parenting strategy and to monitor and review its implementation.
- To monitor performance targets and priorities so far as they relate to children looked after or young people in receipt of leaving care services.
- To consider recommendations from internal and external inspections and reviews and hear the voice of children looked after and care leavers in responding to them
- To monitor the health needs of looked after children, promoting positive engagement of health partners in Corporate Parenting.
- To monitor the education needs of looked after children, promoting positive engagement of education partners in Corporate Parenting.
- To ensure the Council actively promotes opportunities for looked after children across the whole Council.
- To ensure that the voice and opinions of as wide a range as possible of children looked after and care leavers, including those with disabilities, are heard and that their views are used to co-produce services, shape policy and monitor performance.
- To advise the Lead Member for Children's Services on issues relating to Corporate Parenting Policy.
- To report annually to the Council on the work of the Panel.

**Appendix 3
Corporate Parenting Panel**

**Dates of future meetings
Municipal year 2022/2023**

Dates of meetings

23	June	2022
07	September	2022
10	November	2022
11	January	2023
21	February	2023
26	April	2023

REPORT TO:	Corporate Parenting Panel 23 rd June 2022
SUBJECT:	Update on the South London Commissioning Programme and Sufficiency Strategy
LEAD OFFICER:	Shelley Prince, Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement – Children, Young People, Education and Health
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Maria Gatland Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
WARDS:	All
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

Corporate Parenting Panel have requested an update on the progress of the South London Commissioning Programme (SLCP) and Sufficiency Strategy.

This report provides an update on work that is in being taken forward by the South London Commissioning Partnership, which is seeks to address, and collaboratively respond to a number of commissioning workstreams for Children and Young People.

The report also contains an update on the commissioning teams intentions to refresh the accommodation and sufficiency strategy due to the

It also contains a summary of the strategic priorities of the programme for the period 2022-23

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A – Report is for information only.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to note the updates and progress of the South London Commissioning Programme and the strategic priorities of the programme for 2022-23

It is also being asked to note the update of the refresh of the accommodation and sufficiency strategy for children looked after and the associated timescales for this workstream.

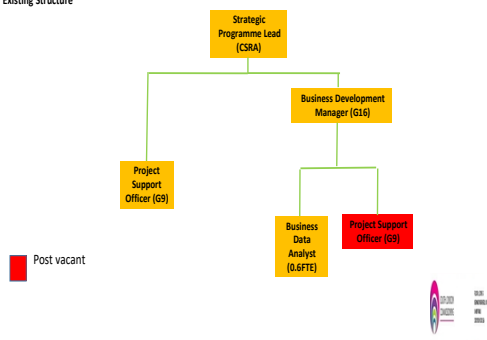
1. Background and Context

SLCP

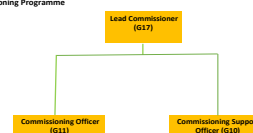
Non-Executive Template

- 1.1 The South London Commissioning Programme (SLCP) was established in 2013 to support the commissioning of quality placements in the NMI special school and FE College sectors as a collaboration of the 12 South London boroughs. The aim of the Partnership was to develop regional commissioning models which operate at sufficient size to provide economies of scale and a varied range of placement options.
- 1.2 In 2017, SLCP was awarded a Department for Education Innovation Fund grant £1 million to establish a light touch framework Approved Provider Panel Agreement (APPA). The framework is part of a commissioning approach that is designed to secure long-term high-quality placements for children in care within a stable pricing structure.
- 1.3 Over the years, the membership of South London boroughs has reduced as other commissioning vehicles have come online, and where boroughs have felt more aligned with these vehicles' commissioning programmes.
- 1.4 The London Borough of Croydon is the lead local authority for the SLCP. A further three South London boroughs form part of the children looked-after work programme, comprising of Lambeth and Lewisham, several other boroughs dropped out of the programme due to differing strategic priorities. Each borough contributes £20,000 per annum for membership of the children looked-after work stream and access to the APPA framework.
- 1.5 Discussions are taking place with commissioning borough partners about future plans for SLCP and the workstreams beyond 22/23
- 1.6 As at the beginning of 22/23, SLCP's membership had reduced to 6 members, alongside the significant reduction in the DfE fund available for the programme,

Appendix 1
South London Commissioning Programme
Existing Structure



Appendix 2
South London Commissioning Programme
Proposed Structure



the team was restructured in 2021 from the diagram on the left, to the diagram on the right, to deliver the revised workstream programmes.

- 1.7 Work plans for the CLA workstream for 22/23 have been agreed with the reduced resource, the proposed areas of focus are as follows:
 - APPA for Residential and IFA – refresh
 - Quality Framework and Contract Management
 - Fee negotiations with providers
 - Support Pan London Projects including ASD/SEMH

Sufficiency Strategy

- 1.8 The CYP Accommodation Strategy was completed in November 2021. It provided an outline for specific plans to address several needs and changes that were appearing in the population of children in our care, and in the provision available for them. These included:
- Significant changes nationally to how we accommodate Unaccompanied and Separated Children
 - An ageing in-house foster care population
 - A residential market which is expensive and does not meet the needs of our children
 - Significant quality issues reported by our care leavers in housing provision
- 1.9 Plans were set out in this document to address these issues, however due to recent policy changes, the rising cost of placements and recommendations from The Care Review, the decision have has been taken to refresh the Children Looked After sufficiency strategy (of which the Accommodation Strategy was an appendix).
- 1.10 The following high level programme of activity is as follows:
- Bring together a children looked after Sufficiency Board to oversee the development and delivery of the sufficiency and accommodation strategy – **JUN/JULY**
 - Undertake a mapping exercise in relation to children looked after provision - **JUN/JULY**
 - Undertake a strategic needs assessment which will inform current and future levels of service provision - **AUG/SEPT**
 - Publish a refreshed children looked after sufficiency strategy- **MAR 23**
- 1.11 Alongside this programme consultation with stakeholders, children, young people, and their families will take place in quarter 4 of 22/23 once a draft strategy is in place. However, there is an expectation that engagement of system partners and residents will take place through the development of the strategy
- 1.12 The voice of the children and young person will be at the centre of this work and will inform areas for co-design and co-production.

2. APPA Light Touch Framework for IFA Residential and Residential Care

- 2.1 The APPA tender was published by the South London Commissioning Programme on October 11 2019 and closed on November 11 2019. The tender was evaluated and moderated in November and December 2019.

The tender was divided into 2 lots as follows;

Lot	Service Area	Sub-Lot
Lot 1	Residential Care	1a: Standard Placements.

		1b: Specialist Placements.
Lot 2	Independent Fostering Agency	2a: Standard Placements. 2b: Specialist Placements. 2c: Emergency Placements.

2.2 The quality threshold for providers that can operate through the framework, are those providers with a ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ OFSTED judgement overall. This is to give assurance to local authorities and children in care that all placements are with providers with a minimum of good quality services. The APPA is currently used by Lambeth and Croydon, with Lewisham set to implement the APPA imminently.

2.3 A further 43 providers have now joined the APPA in the last tender refresh in January 2021. The additional providers will increase the choice for member boroughs considerably, resulting in better improved matching of children to placement provider and in a reduction in the use of spot purchasing.

The following table contains the breakdown of providers for the framework.

Total Number of Providers on the APPA

Area	Total Providers
Residential Care	25
Independent Fostering Agency	53

2.4 The intention from the team is to refresh the APPA again in September 2022, and award places in January 2023. The team are actively exploring ways to involve young people in the tender while keeping to procurement guidelines.

3. Quality Assurance

3.1 All providers on the APPA are required to be OFSTED ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’. This ensures that children placed through the framework are placed with a minimum standard of provider. SLCP have developed a quality framework for non-maintained and independent special schools for the SEND programme. Visits to the 40 most commonly used schools will be carried out on a bi-annual basis from January 2021. This will provide quality assurance to the member boroughs and will focus on raising the quality of the providers. The programme has agreed a similar quality framework for APPA providers in 2022. This enables all member boroughs to share information on the quality and practice of key providers, and member boroughs will be conducting and sharing joint visits over the coming months.

4. PAN London Commissioning Solutions

- 4.1 SLCP is working closely with other sub-regional organisations in London and with the Association of London Directors of Children’s Services on the PAN London Placements Panel. The Panel is focused on tackling sufficiency for particular groups of children in care. There are a number of projects being undertaken, including;
- Resettlement and alternative to youth custody.
 - Complex adolescents.
 - Provision for ASD/SEMH.
 - Mother and baby residential.
 - Secure provision.
- 4.2 SLCP is involved in all of these projects and leads on the ASD/SEMH project. The aim is to increase the availability of appropriate good quality placements for children in care that are in the groups set out above.
- 4.3 **ASD SEMH Project:** SLCP is leading an ALDCS PAN London Placement Panel project to tackle issues relating to ASD/SEMH. Funding has been secured from the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance.
- 4.4 This project has particular emphasis on young people with significant social emotional and mental health needs. Research will be carried out into the criteria for access to specific services, residential educational provision, key worker preventative services, and diagnostic pathways.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Appropriate consultation and engagement will be undertaken throughout the refresh of the strategy, as highlighted above., which will be informed by the voice and needs of the children and young people that access the services.
- 5.1 SLCP holds regular meetings and events with providers and national representative bodies. This work has contributed to the development of the framework model, in terms of focus, quality, and price.
- 5.4 As part of the development of the quality frameworks for children with SEND and children-looked-after providers consultation takes place with the providers of these services.

Author: Shelley Prince; Head of Integrated Commissioning & Procurement; CYPE & Health

2. CONSULTATION

N/A

2 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Non-Executive Template

N/A

3 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

N/A

4 EQUALITIES IMPACT

N/A

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

N/A

6 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

N/A

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

NO

8 Approved by: Róisín Madden Director Children's Social Care

CONTACT OFFICER: Shelley Prince, Head of Service,
Shelley.prince@croydon.gov.uk