

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	Corporate Parenting Committee 8th November 2017
SUBJECT:	Forward Work Plan
LEAD OFFICER:	Barbara Peacock
CABINET MEMBER:	<i>Cllr Alisa Flemming</i>
WARDS:	All

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:

The term 'Corporate Parenting' was first used in the Children Act 1989 and has been updated in subsequent Acts.

The Local Authority holds a Corporate Parenting Panel in order to allow members to have oversight of the work to support looked after children and care leavers who are the direct responsibility of the local authority.

The Ofsted Inspection of service for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers concluded that '*As corporate parents the local authority has not prioritised and planned sufficiently to improve outcomes for children*'. The Inspectors also noted that the panel '*does not focus enough on improving poor performance in priority areas*'.

Additionally, Ofsted noted that:

More work is needed to engage the Children in Care Council.

The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel have not been formally reviewed since 2010 (appendix A attached).

The current workplan expires in early 2018 and therefore is due for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are likely to be financial implications arising from aspects of the work programme, but these are as yet to be quantified.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 For the Panel to approve a work plan for the forthcoming year and review the terms of reference.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The work plan is intended to cover all areas of work that support looked after children and care leavers. It will include standing agenda items and agendas that can be repeated and updated year on year. The agenda is broadly grouped into areas that relate to each other.

3. DETAIL OF THE REPORT

3.1 Corporate Parenting training

- 3.1.1 The officer group would like to offer updated training and input to elected members using a resource such as the National Children's Bureau's *Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice* or similar.

3.2 Work plan Options

- 3.2.1 Officers are suggesting that the young people of the Children in Care Council are given the work plan and asked to contribute with forward questions and 'challenge cards' to officers and elected members. This will be led by the members from the Children in Care Council.
- 3.2.2 A Children in Care performance scorecard will be developed for challenge and discussion covering all key performance indicators.
- 3.2.3 Engagement of members with staff and young people.
- 3.2.4 Reviewing the Pledge to Children and Young People in Care. This should be led annually by the Children in Care Council.
- 3.2.5 Mentoring/peer mentoring.
- 3.2.6 Celebration / Awards: This would be a short report that updates the Panel on plans and recruits their commitment to supporting success.
- 3.2.7 Complaints. Summary of complaints from children in care directly, or via a third party, with a review of the learning from complaints with some key examples. This would be led by the complaints team.
- 3.2.8 Fostering: Annual Review of the Statement of Purpose. Annual Report on the work of the Service; input from the Croydon Foster Carers' Association (CFCA). Report on recruitment and de-registrations. This will include how young people support the training of carers and how they are offered choice. We will need to hear from the young person who sits on Panel. Update on the Fostering Action Plan.
- 3.2.9 Adoption: Recruitment of adopters, annual report from the service, Update on regionalisation agenda where appropriate and use of Adoption Support Fund (ASF).
- 3.2.10 Housing for Care Leavers. Report on how many young people have stayed put, how many have been offered social housing tenancies. This report would need to cover what the parameters are for supported housing, as well as some numbers.
- 3.2.11 Sufficiency planning. Placement availability and choice.

- 3.2.12 Analysis of the prevailing and emerging health needs of the Looked After population and Care Leavers. We would want to ask our health colleagues to include discussion about themes and patterns of physical and mental health needs and the evidence of those needs having been met, and access to wider health opportunities such as free or subsidised access to leisure.
- 3.2.13 Supporting children who go missing from care. Risk management, multi-agency work, panels, Return Home Interviews (RHIs) and their Impact. This report will need to offer something about the profile of these young people and the initiatives we have in place to reduce missing.
- 3.2.14 Virtual School Annual report, GCSE outcomes, A level outcomes, Graduate care leavers, care leavers education, training and employment figures, details on apprenticeship schemes both within the Council and within partners. Leisure opportunities, positive contribution, volunteering, internships. Commissioning intentions.

4. CONSULTATION

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are likely to be financial implications arising from aspects of the work programme, but these are as yet to be quantified.

6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications of this report.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 This report is not proposing a change in policy or service.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications of this report.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 10.1 There are no crime and disorder implications of this report.

CONTACT OFFICER: Wendy Tomlinson, Head of Looked after Children, Croydon Council.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Appendix A – Corporate Parenting Panel terms of reference

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: Not applicable.

Corporate Parenting Panel

Established: First established 2007 and re-established annually since then.

Regularity of meetings: 4 times per year.

Membership: 7 Members - 5:2

2017/18

1 Alisa Flemming, (Chair).	1. Maria Gatland
2 Bernadette Khan	2. Andy Stranack
3 Shafi Khan	
4 Andrew Rendle	
5 Pat Clouder	

Proportionality: 5 Majority Group and 2 Minority Group

Discretionary training requirements: Speed reading, Data Protection and Freedom of Information. Members Code of Conduct/ Declaration of Interest, Safeguarding for Children, Children's Trust

Duties of Panel Members: (1) to read papers and identify questions and comments (2) to attend panel meetings (3) to declare interests as required (4) to carry out any follow up actions (5) attend any required training

Clerk: Ilona Kytomaa Ext 62683

Lead Officers: Barbara Peacock, Executive Director (people), Philip Segurolo, Interim Director, Early Help and Children's Social Care, Wendy Tomlinson, Head of Looked After Children and Resources

Quorum: 3

Terms of Reference (Revised July 2010)

- The Corporate Parenting Panel will focus on improving outcomes for children looked after by Croydon Council
- 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 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 listen to representations from looked after children and young people who are in receipt of services from the Council or from those young people who are care leavers.
- To advise the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services on issues relating to Corporate Parenting Policy.