

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	<b>29.11.23</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Housing Priority 1 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy</b>
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education, Debbie Jones.  Director of Children’s Services, Roisin Madden.</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jane Scott, Corporate Parenting Transformation Lead. Email: jane.scott@croydon.gov.uk. Telephone: Softphone 22849.</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Maria Gatland, Lead Member for Children’s Services.</b>

## 1 REPORT

- 1.1** Croydon Council has developed a Corporate Parenting Strategy which has Housing development and improvement for Care Experienced Young People as one of our four priorities. The whole council and partnership approach which underpins the strategic vision has a focus on ensuring all our young people leaving care will have the best start in life and experience a supportive and positive transition into independence. This includes good preparation for living independently, choice of area, quality of housing to create a new home and financial resilience to create the stability required to enable a positive transition into adulthood. As Corporate Parents we need to ensure that we have a flexible approach when our young people make mistakes and need support and guidance whilst celebrating success and achievement.
- 1.2** The first Corporate Parenting Housing Subgroup was held on the 16.11.23 and was chaired by Housing Directors, Mary Larbie and Beatrice Cingtho-Taylor. The subgroup participants included our participation team supporting a young person to talk about his views on housing and involvement in developing a House Project in Croydon. Colleagues were able to discuss clarity required regarding the housing local offer at present with a view to updates whilst improvement work is undertaken through the corporate parenting programme. Actions taken from this subgroup included more working together between housing and children’ social care staff and foster carers to clarify the processes and opportunities for young people to receive support and suitable housing in safe areas, starting with a workshop with young people on designing and informing ‘lettable standards’, drawing on the expertise and knowledge of members of the subgroup.

- 1.3** The Housing improvement transformation work is pulled together this month starting with a large workshop to create workstreams where housing and children’s social care staff will come together to identify key milestones and timelines to drive the activity and momentum around work that has been front loaded to date. Examples of the front loading incorporate engagement, planning and contract development to enable the House Project to go live from January 2024. Regeneration planning has incorporated activity around visits to two YMCA projects involving young people and our Director of Children’s services, the most recent of which was on the 17.11.23. Our regeneration colleagues are scoping possible land opportunities in Croydon for a new modular build specifically for Care Experienced Young People with the option of a possible shared housing model for 16–22-year-olds requiring more support. We are very excited about the positive feedback from young people and eagerly anticipate their involvement in designing and creating new opportunities for stable homes.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

For the reasons set out in the report the Corporate Parenting Board I is recommended:

- 2.1** to note the above developments and information

## **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1** To support the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy

## **7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 7.1** The proposals contained within this report contribute to the following outcome in the Mayors Business Plan for 2022- 2026.
- Children and young people in Croydon have the chance to thrive, learn and fulfil their potential.

## **8. IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1.1** Incorporated in transformation planning.

### **8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**8.2.1** These have been considered as part of the wider Corporate parenting strategy.

### **8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

A EQIA assessment has been undertaken and highlighted how improvements will incorporate equalities into housing developments.