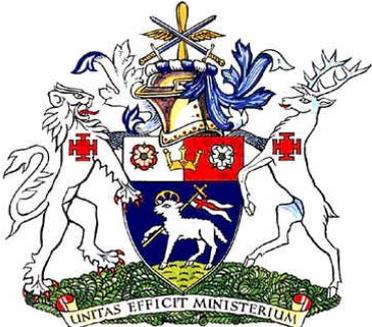


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|  | <p>Children, Educational, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>21 February 2017</p> |
| Title | Corporate Parenting Strategy |
| Report of | Commissioning Director – Children and Young People |
| Wards | All |
| Status | Public |
| Urgent | No |
| Key | No |
| Enclosures | Appendix A: Corporate Parenting Strategy |
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Summary

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out our key principles and priorities to improve the outcomes for children in care by the building of their resilience, aspirations and independence as they move through care into adulthood.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee approve following Corporate Parenting Strategy as appended.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 It is important that Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is briefed on the implementation of this Strategy, as Committee Members are key stakeholders in overseeing Barnet's Corporate Parenting Duties for looked after children and care leavers.
- 1.2 The launch of the Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020 sets out the vision for Family Friendly Barnet, to develop resilient families and resilient children. A strategy based on resilience involves looking for strengths and opportunities to build on, rather than for issues or problems to treat. It is within this context that Barnet will implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- 1.3 This paper informs Members of the priorities for children in care and care leavers that are proposed until 2020. This will enable members, officers and partners to better meet the needs of children in care and care leaver through targeted activity that will make a difference to outcomes for Barnet's children.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As corporate parents, Members are requested to approve the strategy. The strategy proposes the direction of travel for Barnet's corporate parenting services over 2017-20.
- 2.2 Members are invited to input their views into the strategy the document is finalised and submitted to CELS for sign-off.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The report supports Members in advancing this agenda specifically, and all Members in fulfilling their roles as Corporate Parents.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Progress will be monitored through the reporting of key indicators both through monthly officer assurance reports and as part of the management information update to Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel.
- 4.2 A detailed action plan is being developed to ensure that priorities are advanced in a defined and timely fashion. This action plan will be taken forward with the Corporate Parenting Action Plan by a group of officers.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 This strategy addresses the corporate responsibility to children in care and care leavers and is aligned with the Corporate priorities of developing resilient

communities, managing demand of services and transforming services.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 There are no direct financial implications of the strategy at this stage. There are, however, pressures related to the Children and Social Work Bill in particular the requirement on Local Authorities to provide Personal Advisors for care leavers up to the age of 25. This will be reviewed and the details reported to the Panel and other relevant Committee once the Bill becomes legislation. .

5.2.2 Family Services commissioning involves children and young people and is supported by clear monitoring arrangements which are robust and clearly governed to provide oversight of how commissioned services achieve outcomes. The Commissioning process is informed by needs analysis drawing on diverse sources of insight.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

5.3.2 Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children in care under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. They also duties under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 towards eligible and relevant and former relevant children i.e. current and future cohorts of children who have left or will leave the local authority's care.

5.4.2 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, provided that this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Services might include day care for young children, afterschool care for school children, counselling, respite care, family centre services or practical help in the home or targeted parenting and family support.

5.4.3 The Council's Constitution, in the Responsibility for Functions – Annex A, outlines that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is responsible for ensuring oversight of effective support for young people in care and to enhance the Council's corporate parenting role.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The nature of services provided to children and families by Family Services involve managing significant levels of risk. High quality early intervention and social care services reduce the likelihood of children suffering harm and increase the resilience and likelihood of children developing into successful adults and achieving and succeeding.

5.5.2 Family Services maintains a risk register, to ensure that risks relating to safeguarding children and young people are managed effectively. These risks are reviewed at least every quarter. Any risks arising from the strategy or the related projects will be managed in line with the corporate risk management framework.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.6.2 Equalities and Diversity considerations are a key element of the Council's approach to safeguarding and work with children and young people. Services provided take equality and diversity considerations into account, and there are seasonal events arranged for children in care and care leavers that celebrate diversity.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 Across Family Services, the participation agenda is driven by the Voice of the Child Strategy, which outlines a clear vision to provide all children and young people within Barnet the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 The Barnet placements commissioning strategy is based on a thorough needs assessment and sets out the profile and needs of Barnet's looked after children and is designed to better meet the needs of our looked after children.

This includes meeting equality and diversity considerations as set out in the 2010 Equality Act.

Sources of insight include:

- National research on challenges, opportunities and outcomes for care leavers
- Governmental papers and strategies
- Local data, from the ICS social care system

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Item 5 (Corporate Parenting Strategy), Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel, 7th February 2017:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=208&MId=8789&Ver=4>