

Committee:	Date:
Community and Children's Services	13 February 2015
Subject:	Public
Corporate Parenting Strategy	
Report of:	For information
Director of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report introduces to Members the City of London's renewed Corporate Parenting Strategy. It has been approved by the Safeguarding Sub Committee, and has the support of the City and Hackney Children's Safeguarding Board. It is brought to this Committee to highlight the important role and responsibility of all Members as corporate parents to the children who are in or who have left the City's care.

Corporate parenting is when the City takes on the role of a good and effective parent to the children it looks after and those who have left care. Everyone who works for the City of London is a corporate parent to the children and young people in the City's care – including elected Members and chief officers.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out how the City will fulfil its commitment and ensure that children and young people have the support, care and encouragement to reach their full potential.

The strategy includes the City's "Pledge" to its children looked after and care leavers. The Pledge is a set of promises that have been identified through consultation with children and young people in or leaving care.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- receive the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London has renewed its Corporate Parenting Strategy. The strategy was approved by the meeting of the Safeguarding Sub Committee on 27 November 2014.
2. Corporate parenting is a legal and moral duty placed on local authorities caring for children looked after and those leaving care. The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out how the City will deliver its role as a corporate

parent and ensure that children and young people have the support, care and encouragement to reach their full potential.

3. It describes the City's role as a corporate parent and the City's "Pledge" to its children and young people who are looked after or leaving care, and sets out the range of actions the City will undertake to deliver the strategy.
4. The strategy seeks to ensure that the City will act as an effective corporate parent making decisions and behaving in ways that:
 - keep our children safe
 - help children and young people's material wellbeing
 - support children and young people in their education and training
 - provide appropriate health care for children looked after
 - promote employment
 - encourage enjoyment and achievement through leisure and continuing interests
 - help to develop personal skills
 - provide stability and a sense of security and belonging
 - understand family life
 - provide support after leaving care
 - empower our children and young people.
5. To achieve this, and deliver the City's role and responsibilities as a corporate parent, the strategy sets out a number of actions and commitments grouped under the following headings:
 - healthy and safe
 - learning, achieving and enjoying
 - listening and contributing
 - independence and working
 - individual and community.
6. The actions and commitments beneath these headings will form the strategy's action plan to support its delivery, and ensure it is accountable to Members and the City's children and young people. This action plan will be refreshed annually.
7. Within the strategy the City has developed a "Pledge" for its children looked after, young people and care leavers. The Pledge is the City's promise to provide the care and help that children and young people in its care have told the City they want. It also includes the commitments the City has already made in signing up to the Government's "charter for care leavers".
8. The Pledge to children looked after and care leavers was developed through consultation with children and young people and agreed at the first meeting of the City's Children in Care Council. It sets out a number of promises that children and young people have identified which, if delivered, would make the City a good parent and carer. It is anticipated that Members, chief officers,

partners and children and young people will sign the Pledge to signify their shared commitment to it.

9. Subsequently, the Children in Care Council has begun work to develop a summary version of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for children and young people. They have also worked with one of the department's apprentices to design a poster version of the Pledge.
10. The role of corporate parent is supported by a lead elected Member for children's safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Sub Committee. The Safeguarding Sub Committee acts as the City's corporate parenting board – providing oversight, challenge and leadership to achieve the best outcomes for the City's children and to ensure that these outcomes are delivered by all partners. As such the Safeguarding Sub Committee will have oversight of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and its implementation.
11. The implementation of the strategy provides a renewed focus for Members and officers to identify actions and opportunities to help the children and young people in our care to maximise their potential, and to challenge and champion on their behalf.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. The renewal of the Corporate Parenting Strategy is a commitment in the Department of Community and Children's Services' Departmental Business Plan.

Implications

13. There are no additional financial, legal or HR implications arising from the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Conclusion

14. The implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy will support the City's ambition that every child looked after or care leaver in its care will meet their full potential and have lives in which they thrive. It will ensure that as a corporate parent the City will keep children safe, and support, encourage and nurture them so that they reach the heights we all aspire to for our own children.

Appendix

- Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Strategy

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