



# Report – Community and Children’s Services Committee

## Corporate Parenting Strategy

*To be presented on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

### **SUMMARY**

This report is presented to the Court of Common Council to highlight the important responsibility of all Members as corporate parents to the children who are in or who have left the City’s care. To ensure all Members of the Court of Common Council are aware of their role as Corporate Parents, the 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 Corporate Parenting Strategy has been approved by your Community and Children’s Services Committee’s Safeguarding Sub Committee, and has the support of the City and Hackney Children’s Safeguarding Board.

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**

We **recommend** that Members of the Court of Common Council receive the Corporate Parenting Strategy, set out at appendix 1.

## **MAIN REPORT**

### **Background**

1. On 27 November 2014, the Safeguarding Sub Committee of your Community and Children's Services Committee approved a renewed Corporate Parenting Strategy for the City of London Corporation.
2. Corporate parenting is a legal and moral duty placed on local authorities caring for looked after children 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. 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.
4. The Pledge to looked after children 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, children and young people will sign the Pledge to signify their shared commitment to it.
5. Subsequently, the Children in Care Council has begun work to develop a summary version of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for children and young people.
6. 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.

7. 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.

**Conclusion**

8. The implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy will support the City's ambition that every looked after child 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.
9. We **recommend** accordingly that the Strategy be noted.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Dhruv Patel**  
Chairman, Community and Children's Services Committee