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| <b>Committee:</b>   | <b>Dated:</b>          |
| Safeguarding Sub- Committee   | 10/10/2022             |
| <b>Subject:</b> Pan London Children in Care Council   | <b>Public</b>          |
| <b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b> |                        |
| <b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>                                  | <b>N</b>               |
| <b>If so, how much?</b>   | <b>£</b>               |
| <b>What is the source of Funding?</b>   |                        |
| <b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>                             | <b>N/A</b>             |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Partnership for Young London   | <b>For Information</b> |
| <b>Report author:</b><br>Sharon Long, Director, Partnership for Young London                              |                        |

### Summary

This report provides an update on the Pan London Children in Care Council which is sponsored by the City of London Corporation in conjunction with the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS). The report covers progress on the Pan London Children in Care Council in terms of deliverables, outcomes and partnerships developed.

The programme is facilitated by Partnership for Young London as part of a contract via the City of London Corporation. The Pan London Children in Care Council aims to improve outcomes for young people who experience care across the region. It ensures that young people are at the core of regional planning and decision-making and focuses on developing cross-sector partnerships that collaborate to ensure that care-experienced young people have access to jobs, financial support, emotional health, and wellbeing services to support them to achieve their ambitions and thrive. This work is part of the Pan London Corporate Parenting Responsibilities and is supported by London Councils, ALDCS, Health, and local authorities.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

## Main Report

### Background

1. The Pan London Children in Care Council is funded by the ALDCS and sponsored by the City of London Corporation. Partnership for Young London facilitates the Pan London Children in Care Council, with the remit to:
  - recruit two young people who are care-experienced to run the Pan London Children in Care Council
  - support care-experienced young people to engage in policy and practice decisions across the region
  - bring together regional partnerships to enhance the regional offer for care-experienced young people
  - take a lead role with London Councils and ALDCS on the Pan London Offer for Care Leavers, including running working groups and supporting youth engagement
  - facilitate regional research with young people on issues they are keen to explore
  - run the Pan London Children in Care Council sessions on a bimonthly basis, and facilitate the Youth Advisory Board
  - run training and capacity-building programmes for young people and staff working in the sector.
  
2. In the last six months we have:
  - Hosted the Pan London Children in Care Council – with 66 representatives from across London reviewing what young people need in terms of support around the cost of living, assessing their needs for mentoring, and focusing on developing creative assets on the lived experience of care leavers – they can be viewed on the Partnership for Young London website [at this link](#)
  - Children in Care Council Advisory Board – hosted four meetings of the Children in Care Council, to review progress and develop new priorities informed and influenced by young people
  - Virtual School Headteachers – we have been working on a session with the London Network for Virtual Headteachers exploring young people's needs in education, careers advice and guidance, and post-16 options
  - Pan London Offer – we worked with London Councils and ALDCS to establish the governance arrangements for the Pan London Offer:
    - a. Secured Free Prescriptions across London
    - b. Secured 50% reductions on bus and trams
    - c. Reviewed the offer in place across the region to help shape it in conjunction with London Councils
    - d. Developed a video on the cost-of-living challenges faced by care leavers.
  - Networks – we facilitated six Participation Workers Network meetings and one session for the Network of Leaving Care Leads for London

- Mentoring Research – we reviewed the mentoring offer across London for care-experienced young people and presenting that to the Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Councils. A final report can be downloaded [here](#) on the Partnership for Young London website
- National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) – we were part of a network meeting for NNECL on quality standards across London’s universities for care leavers, this will lead to a working group on getting the standard in place across more London universities
- Young Inspectors Training – we facilitated a training session with more than 12 local authority leads to learn how to facilitate a youth inspection
- Podcast – we developed a podcast with Mark Riddell, the national care leavers advisor for the Department for Education, which can be viewed online [at this link](#).

## Current Position

3. The following work is currently underway:

- Pan London Offer – young people are co-chairing the Pan London Offer work streams. These groups cover: Housing, Health, Financial Offer, Transport, Education and Training, and Data. These will be cross-sector working groups that will report into ALDCS.
- Pan London Children in Care Council – we will be hosting the next meeting of this group in October half term with a focus on the cost of living and our planned event with Be Inspired
- Advisory Board – monthly meetings of the Youth Advisory Board to help shape the work of the Pan London Children in Care Council
- Participation Workers Network – there will be monthly meetings for all representatives from across London, sharing practice, undertaking training and research
- Employment and Care Leavers – we are working with West Ham Foundation and John Lewis Partnership and hosting a session at West Ham Stadium on the role of the private sector to get care-experienced young people into employment
- Leaving Care Networks Leads – with the GLA we will be supporting a regional events with key partners on the Pan London Offer in October 2022.

## Options

4. The work in Current Position (paragraph 3) covers all the outcomes. They are all budgeted for in the existing contract. The agreed outcomes for this work are:

- a) Increased engagement across London of young people in care and care leavers in regional decision-making, including:
  - case studies on key events such as Mayoral Hustings, meetings at the GLA
  - timeline of the activities and the results

- feedback from regional partners
  - increased attendance at meetings by young people.
- b) Increased skills, and abilities to influence regional and national priorities for young people in care and care leavers, including:
- training feedback forms on achievements
  - blogs or podcasts from young people
  - feedback at Children in Care Council sessions.
- c) London-wide collaboration in identifying and working to address the needs of young people in care and care leavers, including:
- case studies on work completed
  - database and timeline on activities undertaken and the cross-section of partners engaged
  - reports and data from research and events
  - evidence of implementation of recommendations across London boroughs
  - youth-led research creating a higher profile of key issues being faced by young people in care and care leavers.
- d) Raising awareness and increasing the profile of key issues faced by young people in care and care leavers, including:
- data capture on engagement
  - quarterly update reports including feedback from meetings
  - case studies – that is, interviews with decision-makers.
- e) Children in Care Council engagement in City Children Services Provision and monitoring, including:
- feedback from participants
  - quarterly update report.

## **Proposals**

5. N/A

## **Key Data**

6. Outputs

- six regional Children in Care Council meetings with more than 120 young people
- six Youth Advisory Board meetings with up to 30 young people
- 11 meetings with participation workers from across all London boroughs

- outreach work to up to five London borough Children in Care Councils per year
- four training sessions for the Pan London Children in Care Council members with 80 young people
- two youth-led research projects facilitated with 50 young people – to be set (that is, Pan London Offer and transitions to independent living to be agreed with young people)
- three roundtable meetings with policy leads across London and nationally
- gathering data on the local offer across all London boroughs
- 20 email bulletins on policy and practice to participation workers, showcasing opportunities for young people.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

7. Strategic implications – None.
8. Financial implications – This project has restricted funding for two years.
9. Resource implications – This project is funded for two years.
10. Legal implications – None.
11. Risk implications – All programmes are supported by risk assessments across the organisation, and this is presented to trustees on a bi-monthly basis.
12. Equalities implications – This work aligns with the Public Sector Equality Duty, and we are clear that the work will be focused on supporting those who are protected by existing equality legislation – age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity.
13. Climate implications – All this work is aligned with the organisational environmental policies, and we work to ensure that we assess the climate impact across all of our respective work streams. Staff and young people use public transport to get to work, and we facilitate a range of our programmes online to reduce environmental impact.
14. Security implications – None.

### **Conclusion**

15. This report contains an update on the work of the Pan London Children in Care Council and our proposals for the future. The work is closely aligned with

the City of London Children in Care Council, and we continue to work together to improve outcomes for young people.

## **Appendices**

- None.

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