

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee – For Information	19/06/2023
Subject: Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022/23 and Corporate Parenting Strategy Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Hannah Dobbin, Strategy and Projects Officer, Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

This report informs the Committee of the performance of the City of London Corporation as a corporate parent, and the outcomes that have been achieved for the children in its care from April 2022 to March 2023. It also informs the Committee that the Corporate Parenting Strategy has been reviewed and no significant changes were made.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation (the Corporation) is a corporate parent to the children who are in its care. These looked-after children are children and young people aged from 0 to the eve of their 18th birthday who cannot safely remain with their family, or those for whom the Corporation acts as a parent in the absence of family. Children in care (CiC) can include unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), children with multiple disabilities, and those who have suffered abuse and/or neglect. As such, CiC are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.

2. The Corporation's Children's Services were inspected by Ofsted in March 2020, with the findings published in June 2020. The service was found to be overall 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, its independent evaluation finding that corporate parenting within the City is "very strong, and there is a high commitment throughout the service to ensuring a personalised response to individual need". A focused visit was carried out in November 2022 on front door services.
3. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is reviewed every year, most recently in May 2023.
4. The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 require local authorities to provide an annual report on the outcomes for CiC. This report fulfils that requirement and provides a profile of the Corporation's activities for CiC and care leavers for the year 2022/23.

Current Position

Corporate Parenting Strategy Update

5. The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out how the Corporation 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.
6. The Strategy was reviewed in May 2023. No changes were made to the strategy due to no changes in guidance and legislation in relation to CiC since the previous strategy update.
7. However, the Strategy highlights that the Corporation is analysing the Government's children's social care and special educational needs and disability (SEND) reform proposals to assess against its current performance and potential impact. The reform programme may result in legislation if parliamentary time allows.
8. A copy of the updated Strategy can be found in Appendix 1.

Annual Report

9. The Corporate Parenting Annual Report for 2022/23 covers areas including, but not limited to, health and wellbeing, safeguarding, education, employment, accommodation and the activities of the Children in Care Council.
10. The report contains relevant statistics such as the number of children and young people under the age of 18 who were being looked after by the Corporation as of 31 March 2023, as well as how many young people left our care. It also includes relevant statistics related to the Independent Reviewing Officer service, UASC and the health and wellbeing of our looked-after children and care leavers.

11. As a corporate parent, the Corporation will continue to deliver high-quality support so that children in and leaving its care meet their full potential and have lives in which they thrive. The Annual Report details the targeted actions that the service undertook during 2022/23.

12. A copy of the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022/23 can be found in Appendix 2.

Implications

Strategic implications

13. The Corporate Parenting Strategy and Annual Report are both statutory requirements as set out by the relevant legislation.

14. Reporting on the progress of the Corporation as a corporate parent, with a regularly updated strategy, contributes to the Corporation's Corporate Plan objectives and helps to ensure that people are safe and feel safe, people enjoy good health and wellbeing, people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and their full potential, and communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

Equalities implications

15. The Department of Community and Children's Services strives to improve outcomes for our children and young people who often experience several areas of inequality. Most looked-after children are UASC, and therefore it is important that any actions of the service reflect the specific needs of this group. This is ensured by carrying out adequate Equality Impact Assessments for all new services and initiatives that are developed.

Financial implications

16. N/A

Resource implications

17. N/A

Legal implications

18. N/A

Risk implications

19. N/A

Climate implications

20. N/A

Security implications

21. N/A

Conclusion

22. The Corporate Parenting Annual Report provides oversight of the work undertaken by the service during 2022/23, and the priorities for the year ahead, which are reflected in the strategic aims set out in the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy (May 2023).

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Strategy (Updated May 2023)
- Appendix 2 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022/23

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