

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Safeguarding and SEND Sub-Committee – <i>For endorsement</i> Community and Children’s Services Committee – <i>For Decision</i>	Dated: 13/10/2025 10/11/2025
Subject: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes: Diverse Engaged Communities, Providing Excellent Services • provides statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 and Children and Social Work Act 2017
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
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
Report author:	Zoe Dhami, Strategy and Project Officer

Summary

The City of London Corporation has statutory duties to act as a corporate parent for children in care and care leavers. The draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025–2028 outlines our refreshed vision, values, strategic priorities, and approach to embedding corporate parenting responsibilities across all departments and services.

This draft strategy has been shaped by feedback from care-experienced young people, performance data, Ofsted inspection learning, and internal governance processes. It has been reviewed by senior leadership and shared with a City of London Corporation care leaver for further consultation. A young person-friendly version has also been developed to support accessibility.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Sign off the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028.

Main Report

Background

1. The Corporate Parenting Principles (Children and Social Work Act 2017) require local authorities to promote the best possible outcomes for children in care and care leavers. These duties apply not only to Children's Social Care but to the entire local authority. The City of London Corporation's current strategy expires this year.

Current Position

2. The new strategy aligns with the Corporate Plan 2024–29 and reflects:
 - Feedback from the Coram Voice Annual Survey 2025
 - Ofsted Inspection recommendations (2024)
 - Practice reviews and audit findings
 - Input from senior officers, Members, and care-experienced young people
3. The draft strategy has undergone several stages of internal review and development. The draft strategy has been reviewed by the Achieving Excellence Board, the Children's Senior Management Team, the Departmental Leadership Team and the Safeguarding and SEND Sub-Committee.
4. Following Children's Senior Management Team suggestion, the strategy and young-person friendly version have been shared with a City of London Corporation care leaver. The feedback was positive, commenting that the strategy 'feels personal and caring' as well as including that it shows 'our voices have impact'. The care leaver noted that the real success of the strategy will be through its implementation.
5. Engagement feedback and staff insights have shaped each priority and action area, with additional work underway between Housing and Children's Services to strengthen tenancy support for care leavers.
6. The draft strategy establishes five strategic priorities:
 - I. Home Stability – ensuring safe, secure accommodation
 - II. Health and Wellbeing – trauma-informed, culturally responsive support.
 - III. Education, Employment, and Training – removing barriers to achievement.
 - IV. Voice of Children and Young People – meaningful participation and influence.
 - V. Transition to Independence – preparation and ongoing support into adulthood.

7. Each priority includes specific actions, performance measures, and lead responsibilities across departments. Ongoing oversight will be supported through quarterly monitoring reports to this Sub-Committee. A delivery plan and performance framework are being developed, with officer leads proposed for each indicator.

Key Data

8. Performance and engagement data from the Coram Voice Annual Survey 2025 has been central to the development of this strategy. The survey included responses from 21 care leavers and 5 children in care, with questions covering relationships, housing, health, education, identity, and preparation for adulthood.
9. Headline results include:
 - 100% of children in care were happy with their accommodation type and location.
 - 81% of care leavers felt they received all the help they needed from their social worker.
 - 76% of care leavers felt safe in their lives.
10. Importantly, the strategy also responds to areas where young people shared concerns — for example, barriers to education and training, feelings of social isolation, and challenges with accommodation stability. These insights have been used in a "you said, we did" approach to directly inform the five strategic priorities and associated actions. Feedback from the City of London Corporation care leaver also noted the importance of strengthening these areas.
11. The included Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2024 – 2025 provides an overview of developments and achievements that the draft strategy will build on.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – This strategy directly delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes for Diverse Engaged Communities by ensuring care-experienced young people feel they belong and can participate in co-creating services and Providing Excellent Services by supporting young people to live healthy, independent lives and achieve their ambitions.

Financial implications – The strategy will be delivered within existing budgets. Any specific initiatives requiring additional resources will be subject to separate business case approval.

Resource implications – Implementation will require coordinated effort across departments, supported by training and clear guidance on corporate parenting responsibilities.

Legal implications – The strategy ensures compliance with statutory duties under the Children Act 1989, Children and Social Work Act 2017, and related guidance.

Risk implications – Robust performance monitoring and quality assurance arrangements mitigate risks to service quality and outcomes for young people.

Equalities implications – The strategy promotes inclusivity and addresses barriers faced by care-experienced young people, with particular attention to unaccompanied asylum-

seeking children and those with disabilities. Anti-racist practice is embedded in quality assurance processes.

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

12. The draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028 provides a comprehensive framework for the Corporation to fulfil its statutory duties while building on recognised strengths in supporting children in care and care leavers. The strategy is firmly grounded in the voices and experiences of young people and establishes clear expectations for corporate parenting across all services and departments.

13. The Community and Children's Services Committee approval of the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy will enable implementation for the remaining 2025 – 2026 financial year, with quarterly monitoring through established governance arrangements.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028
- Appendix 2 – Young People's Version Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028
- Appendix 3 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2024/25

Zoe Dhami

Strategy and Project Officer

Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 3002

E: zoe.dhami@cityoflondon.gov.uk