

Report – Community and Children’s Services Committee

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028

To be presented on Friday, 12th December 2025

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

SUMMARY

The City of London Corporation has statutory duties to act as a corporate parent for children in care and care leavers. At its meeting on 10 November 2025, your Community and Children’s Services Committee approved The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028 (Appendix 1) and “young-person friendly” version (Appendix 2). This new strategy outlines a refreshed vision, values, strategic priorities, and approach to embedding corporate parenting responsibilities across all departments and services.

The 2025-2028 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.

In addition to the new Strategy, this report also presents the Corporate Parenting Annual Report for 2024/25 (Appendix 3).

The report and Appendices have been referred to the Court of Common Council this day for information.

RECOMMENDATION

That Honourable Members **note** the contents of the report.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. The Corporate Parenting Principles (Children and Social Work Act 2017) require local authorities, which includes Elected Members and the City Corporation, 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.
2. A new strategy was considered approved by your Community and Children’s Services Committee in November (Appendix 1). It 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. Before approval at your Committee, the Strategy underwent several stages of internal review and development. The Strategy has been reviewed by several officer groups and the Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee.
 4. Following a suggestion, the Strategy and a "young-person friendly" version (Appendix 2) has 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 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.
 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. In addition to the new Strategy, it is a requirement that the City of London Corporation provide an annual update on its role as a corporate parent and the outcomes achieved for children in its care for the previous year. Therefore, for completeness, Appendix 3 is the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2024 – 2025. It provides an overview of developments and achievements that the new Strategy will now build on.

Proposals

12. It is proposed that Honourable Members note the contents of the report and the various appendices.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

13. 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

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

Resource implications

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

Legal implications

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

Risk implications

17. There are robust performance monitoring and quality assurance arrangements mitigate risks to service quality and outcomes for young people.

Equalities implications

18. 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

19. There are no specific climate implications.

Security implications

20. There are no security implications.

Conclusion

21. The 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.

Appendices

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

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

DATED this 10th day of November 2025.

SIGNED on behalf of the Community & Children's Services Committee.

Deputy Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP
Chairman, Community & Children's Services Committee