

12 March 2015		ITEM: 8
Report to Corporate Parenting Committee		
Attendance of the District Nurse at Meetings		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision:	
Report of: Andrew Carter, Head of Care and Targeted Outcomes		
Accountable Head of Service: Andrew Carter, Head of Care and Targeted Outcomes		
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

This report is intended to widen the professional representation on the committee on a regular basis in the interest of encouraging multi-disciplinary participation and accountability in finding services for looked after young people.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Designated Nurse for Looked after Children be requested to attend meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Thurrock Corporate Parenting Committee was formally constituted in the Municipal year 2012-2013. It has requested and received a number of reports from Officers on issues within its area of responsibility. However since its establishment it became apparent that there are other key stakeholders with important contributions to make to the Corporate Parenting Agenda.
- 2.2 Prior to the establishment of the Committee the former Corporate Parenting Group had routinely included wider representation, beyond elected members and senior officers directly involved in managing services for looked after children. Amongst these was a consistent representative from the Primary Care Trust, who was able to ensure that Health issues for Looked After Children remained firmly within focus.
- 2.3 This consistent representation has not been replicated within the Committee, although the Designated Nurse has attended by invitation when health issues were specifically on the agenda. A previous suggestion of permanent co-

option, made at the same time it was agreed to seek standing representation from the Foster Carers Association, Open Door, and the Children in Care Council, was not pursued at that stage.

- 2.4 However there appears to be widespread interest in revisiting the issue, hence the proposal brought forward to the Committee.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Although it is accepted that Children's Social Care are likely to remain the lead agency in delivering appropriate care for Looked After Children, there are areas of expertise and resourcing where we are dependent on the contribution of other professional disciplines. Central to this are colleagues in Education and Health.

3.2 Regular representation on educational issues has already been established through the attendance of the Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children, but it is important to establish a parallel profile for health matters.

3.3 The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children has expressed a willingness to attend the meetings regularly and is very keen to play a full part in working closely with Social Care colleagues in pursuing the agenda of improving outcomes for children.

3.4 Health Service responsibilities are delivered through a variety of organisational structures, and a representative from the Clinical Commissioning Group familiar with these structures, as well as able to directly respond to questions from members, would be an invaluable addition.

3.5 Agreeing the recommendation would both widen the range of viewpoints consistently available to the Committee and reaffirm the authority's commitment to work in partnership with other organisations.

3.6 Should the Committee be minded to agree the recommendation, a formal report will be made to full Council for the next Municipal year.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To ensure members are appropriately supportive of widening the representation of the committee.

5. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

5.1 The content of this report is compatible with Health and Well Being Strategy Priority 12: *Provide outstanding services for children in care and leaving care*

6. Implications

6.1 **Financial**

Implications verified by: Kay Goodacre
Consultant, Corporate Finance

There are no financial implications to this proposal.

6.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: Lindsey Marks
Principal Solicitor

There are no obvious immediate legal implications, provided the recommendation is appropriately implemented in line with the Council's Constitution.

6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: Natalie Warren
Community Development and Equalities Manager

6.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

7. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

8. **Appendices to the report**

None

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