

1 September 2020		ITEM: 8
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Children in Care Update Report		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non Key	
Report of: Annie Guidotti, Children in Care Council/ Thurrock Opendoor		
Accountable Assistant Director: Joe Tynan, Interim Assistant Director of Childrens Services		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Childrens Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Children in Care Council is facilitated and run by Open Door, who are commissioned by Thurrock Council. This update report is to update the Committee on the work done and their engagement with the Service.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Committee note the work carried out by the Children in Care Council, the purpose and the role of the Children in Care Council, and to establish what corporate parents need to do to help the Children in Care Council achieve their aims and objectives**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** The Children in Care Council is a group of young people who are care leavers or cared for by Thurrock Council, which gives children and young people the chance to shape and influence the parenting that they receive at every level. It gives young people a chance to have a say about the things that really matter in their lives, helping to shape the overall strategy for children looked after and care leavers.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1** Please see the attached update report from the Children in Care Council, attached at Appendix 1.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To ensure members are aware of the work carried out by the Children in Care Council.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 None.

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

6.1 When making key decisions about corporate policies our corporate parenting responsibilities should be considered and our children and young people prioritised.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michelle Hall**
Management Accountant - Children's Services

There are no financial implications within this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)

The Council must have regard to the corporate parenting principles in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which include:

- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- Take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people in carrying out its functions.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities, Adults, Housing and Health Directorate

The Service is committed to practice, which promotes inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

Prioritisation of Corporate Parenting will have a direct impact on the outcomes for Children who are Looked After.

8. **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):

- Children and Social Work Act 2017

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Update Report from the Children In Care Council.

Report Author:

Janet Simon, Strategic Lead, Childrens Services