

24 July 2024		ITEM: 11
Council		
Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report 2023/24		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Corporate Parenting Committee		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Shelia Murphy, Corporate Director for Children's Services		
This report is Public		
Version: Final		

Executive Summary

This report introduces the Corporate Parenting Annual Report, following being presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee on the 19 March 2024.

Commissioner Comment:

n/a

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 **That the contents of the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023/2024 be noted.**

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Each year, an Annual Report is produced detailing the work of the Committee and their main achievements for that municipal year. The report is designed to inform residents of this work in an accessible and engaging format.

2.2 The last municipal year has seen the Corporate Parenting Committee tackle a wide range of topics, with Members leading on issues that have come to the fore both through their own research but also by understanding the issues that have arisen in the community.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 It is hoped that the format of the Annual Report will highlight to residents and Members how the Corporate Parenting Committee have picked relevant community issues and how Members undertook work to form recommendations that positively affected these issues.

3.2 The report will be published on the Council's website and key community groups and participants from last year's work will be made aware of its publication directly.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2023/2024 and will be referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall work of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

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

5.1 The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee has been consulted on the contents of the report.

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

6.1 The positive impact of the work of the Corporate Parenting committee for 2023/2024, in driving forward issues in relation to looked after children and care leavers to ensure Members are fully involved and engaged in their Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michelle Hall**
Finance Manager

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

7.2 Legal

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

One of the objectives of the Corporate Parenting Committee as set out in the Constitution is to prepare an annual report on the work of the Committee for consideration by the Council.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced the corporate parenting principles and these are subject to statutory guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683698/Applying_corporate_parenting_principles_to_looked-after_children_and_care_leavers.pdf

The report provides assurance that the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer,
Adults, Housing & Health

The Corporate Parenting Committee recognises the role and importance of diversity and equality and adheres to the Equality Act 2010 and related requirements. All work in 2023/2024 sought to include looked after children and care leavers as appropriate.

7.4 Risks

The Council must ensure the wellbeing of Looked After Children and the proper conduct of the Corporate Parenting Committee enhances this duty. The Annual Report of the committee further ensures that all Members, as corporate parents, are informed and engaged in the issues relating to this service. By not appropriately engaging Members, there are potential risks of the Council not providing adequate duty of care to these children.

The Committee exists to ensure that all elements of the Council work together to ensure that the children looked after by Thurrock get the best possible service that can be offered.

The Annual Report will highlight to residents and Members how the Corporate Parenting Committee have picked relevant community issues and how Members undertook work to form recommendations that positively affected these issues.

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

None

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):

- Agenda, Reports and Minutes of meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee are available from:

<http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock/>

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023/2024

Report Author:

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