


Council 19.07.23	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: James Thomas, Corporate Director of Children and Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022-23	

Proposed Decision Path (indicate) – Delete Section Before Publication:

	Step [Delete as applicable]	Date
DLT Level (Tier One)	DLT / CD	15.05.23
CLT Level (Tier Two)	CLT / CE	20.06.23
Member Level (Tier Three)	MAB / 121	26.06.23
Decision (Tier Four)	Council / IMD	19.07.23

Proposed Decision Path (indicate) – Delete Section Before Publication:

Lead Member	Councillor Maium Talukdar, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
Originating Officer(s)	Tracy Stanley, Strategy & Policy Officer (Children & Culture)
Wards affected	All
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	N/A
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	1. A better deal for children and young people: aspiration, education and skills

Executive Summary

The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022 to 2023 sets out the purpose of the board, how it functions in Tower Hamlets, what has been achieved over the last year, and how corporate parenting priorities are being taken forward for the council and partners.

THIS SECTION TO BE DELETED BEFORE PUBLICATION

Decision Type

Key Decision?	Urgent Decision?	Exempt from Call-In?	Restricted Report or Partially Restricted (e.g. appendix)?
No	No	No	No

*If the answer is yes make sure the forthcoming decision on the website states this or else the decision cannot be taken.

Guidance Documents

Further details on the procedure for Urgent Decisions can be found in the [Intranet Library](#) and the Guide to Report Writing [guidance note](#).

Specific Issues for Pre-Decision Meetings

(Officers may use the following table to add points of note for internal meetings such as CLT, MAB or DMTs. Content can be deleted at any stage and, in any case, will be before publication for the decision making meeting.)

Directorate Leadership Team
Corporate Leadership Team
Mayor's Advisory Board
Communications

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Council is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Not applicable

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not applicable

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report is part of a range of work being led by the council which is focused on strengthening and developing our corporate parenting ethos. Several reports are being taken to committees during July 2023 to provide information on progress, plans and proposals for the future. These are:

- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022 – the subject of this report.
- Corporate Parenting Strategy – A 5 year strategy is under development. The strategy will provide a 'Pledge' (a set of commitments that all stakeholders to sign up to) priorities and an action plan to steer the work of the council and partners. The focus will be on ensuring that the children we care for and care experienced young people have every opportunity to develop, realise their aspirations and thrive. Details in the 'Corporate Parenting Commitments' report (as per next line) will help shape the action plan within the strategy.
- Corporate Parenting Commitments – This report puts forward proposals for commitments the local authority can make as 'corporate parents' to improve experiences and outcomes for children in our care and care experienced young people. This includes adopting 'Care Experienced' as a Protected Characteristic (as recommended in the Independent Care Review) to tackle inequality for our young people. The proposals within this report will align with the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Tower Hamlets.

- 3.2 The Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) demonstrates our continuing commitment to the corporate parenting principles and shows how we deliver on them across many partnerships and services. The board meets

on a quarterly basis and has representation from Councillors, young people, foster-carers, partner organisations and senior managers from across the Council.

- 3.3 Alongside the Children Living in Care Council (CLICC) the board provides a forum where children and young people in the care of the council have direct access to senior leaders and decision makers to share their views and raise and address issues. The board is able to take a strategic approach to the experiences of children looked after and care leavers and work with partners to continually develop and strengthen practice in relation to our corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 3.4 The CPB Annual Report 2022-23 provides information on a wide range of achievements including:
- Building stronger links between Foster Carers and Young People's Services to help support increased membership for the Children Living in Care Council Groups. Including though 'Chat & Chai' meetings on the first Thursday of each month.
 - Delivery of CLICC Summer Programme - a 4 week programme of events that young people were involved in devising. Opportunities included Sea Cadet activities, an Escape Room and a BBQ.
 - Councillor engagement with over 30 young people through an informal meeting, focused on issues they wanted to raise, in March 2023.
 - Awards ceremony for Foster Carers and events throughout the year for carers and children, including a trip to the beach, a musical, theatre and picnic.
 - A level attainment that enabled university entrance for some of our Virtual School students, including to Kings College London, Royal Holloway University, and the University of East London.
 - Work to implement 'child focused language and reporting' as a response to feedback from children which is aimed at being more personal and engaging for our young people.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) is committed to delivering on the corporate parenting principles for all children in care and care leavers. This report provides information about how the board does this through its activities, engagement and plans for the future.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are

required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 There are no other specific statutory implications.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out seven principles which local authorities should follow when carrying out functions in relation to children who are or have been looked after by them. Broadly speaking these principles require local authorities to aim to secure the best possible outcome for these children and young people.

7.2 Statutory guidance 'Applying corporate parenting principles to looked after children and care leavers' (February 2018) sets out how these principles should be applied.

7.3 Although the creation and maintenance of a Corporate Parenting Board is not a statutory requirement, it is suggested as good practice in the guidance. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a local authority to do anything which is calculated to facilitate the discharge of any of its functions. The matters referred to in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022-23

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Tracy Stanley, Strategy & Policy Officer - Children and Culture