

FIRST MAJOR REVIEW 2013/14 – STRENGTHENING THE COUNCIL’S ROLE AS A CORPORATE PARENT

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REASON FOR ITEM

To consider the draft scoping report on this Committee’s major review into strengthening the Council’s role as a Corporate Parent. This was noted at the last meeting of the Committee as a suggested topic for the first major review of 2013/14.

Officers will provide Members with a brief presentation on the topic of corporate parenting within Hillingdon which will give an overview of some of the key issues facing the Council as it discharges its duties as a corporate parent.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To give consideration to the detail contained in the draft scoping report and to make comments and suggestions on the detail contained within.
2. To request clarification and further information from officers.
3. To agree the scoping report and the witnesses that will be required for the Committee to conduct its review.

INFORMATION

1. At the 20 March 2013 meeting of this Committee, it was noted that the Committee would undertake its first major review of the 2013/14 Municipal Year on Strengthening the Council’s Role as a Corporate Parent. This will be the first EdPOC review to look exclusively at the Council’s responsibilities as Corporate Parent.
2. In the light of legislative changes being implemented by the Government’s Children and Families Bill (2013), this review will consider the role of the Corporate Parenting Board in discharging its duties in:
 - Monitoring the performance of permanency and care planning;
 - Regulation 33 inspections of its children’s residential units;
 - Monitoring the fostering service;
 - Children and young people’s participation;
 - The educational attainment of LAC and care leavers;

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- The transition of care leavers into independence and adulthood; and
- The provision of health services. In particular, access to mental and therapeutic services should be looked at.

3. The aim of the review is to assess the Council's statutory duties as Corporate Parents and consider how well the full range of needs of Looked After Children (LAC) and young people are addressed corporately by the Council and to make recommendations on how this role could be strengthened.
4. The review will identify areas for improvement and future development and, if needed, will bring forward positive and practical policy recommendations.

PAPERS WITH THE REPORT

Draft Scoping Report (Appendix A)

Hillingdon Corporate Parenting Board's Terms of Reference (Appendix B)

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Education and Children's Services Policy Overview Committee
17 April 2013