

Minutes

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

29 July 2025

Meeting held at Committee Room 6 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW



	<p>To Members of the Panel:</p> <p>Voting Members: Councillor Nick Denys (Chair) Councillor Heena Makwana (Vice-Chair) Councillor Jan Sweeting</p> <p>Non-voting Members: Representatives of the Children in Care Council, and Care Experienced Young People Ash Knight, Participation Manager Bridget Owen, Designated Nurse Looked After Children (Harrow and Hillingdon) (NHS North West London ICB)</p> <p>Officers Present: Poppy Reddy, Assistant Director, Permanence & Specialist Service Lisa Steel, Virtual School Headteacher Naveed Ali, Democratic Services Apprentice Ryan Dell, Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Also Present: Katie Randall, Clinical Services Manager, Harrow 0-19 Service, CCN Team, Special School Nursing and Looked After Children, CNWL</p> <p>* This meeting was co-chaired by a Children in Care Council member</p>
9.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Dr Kate Head.</p>
10.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>
11.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting dated 20 May 2025 be approved as an accurate record.</p>
12.	<p>UPDATE ON SAFER HAYES PROJECT (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>Officers gave a verbal update on the Safer Hayes Project, which the Participation Team was involved in.</p>

The team had received funding through the Domestic Violence Reduction Unit (DVRU) for 20x young boys to go on a trip to Snowdonia.

During 2024/25, two young people had given talks in eight schools in Hayes to 287 students to discuss how to make Hayes safer. Following this, funding had been received for one of the young people to be employed in one of the schools.

One of the Youth Council's priorities concerned crime and safety, which was wider than just Hayes and included building relationships.

There was also funding for a job role recently advertised for a young person to join the Participation Team.

A recent survey had received over 100 responses on suggestions for how to make Hayes safer.

Activities for young people included 3x basketball groups and a group for young people to be training in hairdressing.

The Chair commended the Safer Hayes Project and that it had been led by young people, and asked about what lessons had been learned so far.

It was noted that a large police presence can make young people feel unsafe. Therefore, work on building relationships was important. For example, non-uniformed police officers attended the previous KICA.

It was noted that there was a lack of CCTV in certain spaces such as parks, and an issue of safety concerns at train/ bus stations. This had been fed back to the Community Safety team. It was suggested that this could also be fed back to local Ward Councillors who had good local networks.

It was acknowledged that the Participation team was part of a wide team on this project.

It was noted that sessions such as Goals can be expensive.

The overall theme was that young people do not feel safe in Hayes.

Members asked for further information on the 2x young people working in schools. Officers advised this involved going into eight schools in Hayes and delivering five or six 1-hour sessions in each school. The sessions involved discussions on shared experiences of what safety means, what it looks like, and any areas that felt particularly safe or unsafe. It also included games such as human bingo. Feedback from the schools had been phenomenal, and the young people were commended. One of the schools was trying to create a post for the young person. A follow up with the schools was planned for the end of the academic year.

Members commended the young people and the wider team and asked for a written update on this project in six months' time.

Members asked about utilising free public spaces such as parks to hold activities. Officers noted that there were free basketball sessions, though some locations lacked CCTV and were seen as unsafe.

Members noted that this was a very good initiative and asked if there were any plans to roll it out into other areas. There were no plans at the current time.

RESOLVED: That the Panel noted the update

13. **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE DATA** (*Agenda Item 5*)

Officers introduced the report, noting that there were (as at 30 June 2025) 333 looked after children, and 770 young people eligible for leaving care services.

Officers noted that attendance was better than the two previous academic years. Suspensions accounted for 1.7% of the statutory school age cohort, and all of whom attended schools out-of-borough. One of these young people had made good progress since. There had been no permanent exclusions in this period.

Officers noted a recent theatre trip to watch The Lion King. The team were piloting evening classes, and some young people had recently sat exams.

On exams, the young people noted that these were based at a children's centre, with two young people in a room with the invigilator. The setting was more fitting you the young people, who could take breaks as needed; they did not have to sit in row of large numbers of people; and they could leave as soon as they were finished. The young people noted that they were grateful to have the opportunity to sit exams again. Some of the young people had sat Functional Skills and were hoping to take GCSEs next year. The young people also noted that they could contact their maths tutor via WhatsApp. Officers noted that they wanted to make it different to the school experience and more of a safe space, and this was commended by Members. Officers also noted that the young people had given good feedback, which was useful.

The young people noted that as they had been away from school for a number of years, this had been a daunting experience, but they were grateful for the opportunity. Members commended the young people.

The Virtual School was commended for delivering tutoring sessions, which were tailored to the young peoples' needs, and the young people reiterated that this was a good opportunity for them to gain qualifications as college courses often had fees.

Officers noted that there had been a reduction in the number of young people coming into care in the last six months, which highlighted the good work of officers. There were occasions of looking to the extended family to take in young people.

There had been a slight reduction in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from the previous quarter. This was, in part, due to the ongoing transformation in social care. This work included efforts to reduce the number of changes young people's social workers.

As part of a new model of delivery and service transformation the Corporate Parenting Service will be restructured into two areas: Cared for Children (under 18) and Transition to Adulthood (18 to 25).

It was noted that Care Leavers' month was upcoming. Officers were meeting to discuss plans for events during this month. This would also be discussed with young people. Events would include a careers event and inspirational speakers.

	<p>Officers would be launching a care strategy in November, which could be brought to the Panel.</p> <p>It was noted that, whilst outside of Care Leaver's month, KICA was upcoming.</p> <p>Colleagues from the health team noted that the newly appointed Transition Nurse had started three weeks ago. The new Named Nurse was due to start on 18 August. The health team were inundated with health assessments as all centres were full. There had been some issues with translators which had contributed to delays in assessments being carried out. Some translators wanted to do online assessments rather than face-to-face. It was noted that a small number of young people had declined health assessments. There had been some issues around consent which could cause delays in initial health assessments. Some foster carers did not bring their young people to initial health assessments, and some young people did not want an assessment.</p> <p>North West London ICB was due to amalgamate with North Central London ICB, which would create the largest ICB in the country. There was a new service specification for North West London ICB to ensure that all eight boroughs were working consistently, for example on travel distances for health assessments.</p> <p>Members noted that Hillingdon was reported to be below the threshold for referrals to the National Transfer Scheme. Officers noted that while Hillingdon had previously been above the threshold, it had dipped below at the time of writing, but was now above the threshold again. If the authority was below the threshold, they cannot transfer young people under the scheme.</p> <p>There had recently been lots of referrals from hotels for age assessments. There were short timescales of seven days to complete the assessment.</p> <p>Members noted that officers were actively developing six additional children's homes. Officers noted that this was in addition to the three current residential homes, and would assist in placement sufficiency. This would include two-bed and four-bed accommodations at the Charville site.</p> <p>Officers added that interviews for roles at the Charville site had commenced, with young people on the interview panels. There would be 70-75 staff across six houses.</p> <p>Members noted that Staying Close was a DfE funded project. Officers confirmed that DfE funding had been extended for an additional year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Panel noted the content of the report.</p>
14.	<p>WORKPLACE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)</p> <p>Officers noted that they were recruiting a care experienced young person to the Participation Team. The Virtual School were assisting young people with employment skills. Officers were working with the apprenticeships team for opportunities. The Children's Centres team were offering work experience opportunities. It was suggested that Members could enquire about opportunities with their wider Member groups.</p> <p>Officers noted that there was a pan-London agreement over a standardised approach to opportunities for young people. More information could be provided at the next meeting.</p>

	<p>The young people gave an update on the Youth Council. Recent topics had included a number of guest speakers; a restructuring of the music offer; and a trip to Sky TV.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the panel noted the update</p>
15.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>Members considered the work programme.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Corporate Parenting Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considered the report; and 2. Added a further update on the Safer Hayes Project
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 5:45 pm, closed at 6.35 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions, please contact Ryan Dell on democratic@hillingsdon.gov.uk. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.