

Agenda Item

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	ANNUAL CORPORATE PARENTING REPORT 2023-2024
DATE OF DECISION:	28 th JANUARY 2025
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR ALEX WINNING CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

CONTACT DETAILS			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Wellbeing (Children and Learning)	
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Author	Title	Head of Corporate Parenting	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
N/A	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
The Lead member for Children’s Services has a statutory role that was established by the Children Act 2004. This role holds political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of Children’s Services.	
The Lead Member provides leadership, support and challenge.	
Part of this role is to provide an annual update to members on how the council is meeting its duty as corporate parents.	
The content of the report has been aligned to coincide with the academic year.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That the September 2024 (for year September 2023 – August 2024) annual corporate parenting report be adopted.
(ii)	That all councillors recommit to our collective responsibility as Corporate Parents, to ensure we champion children and young people in our care, demonstrate aspiration for them, and provide safer and better opportunities for them.
(iii)	That all councillors consider opportunities for care leavers to be able to train and work in the city.
(iv)	That all councillors promote fostering within the city in support of our fostering recruitment challenges.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	

1.	The appended Annual Corporate Parenting Report provides an overview of the strengths and areas for development of our corporate parenting to the children of our city. It makes recommendations about what is required to develop the quality of our corporate parenting.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	The annual report outlines the demography of our children looked after population and provides an overview of the corporate parenting duties of the local authority and our shared, partnership ethos in relation to these.
4.	The report focuses on different areas of the council's strategic priorities for children in 2023-2024 and applies a corporate parenting lens to these to consider how our children looked after and care leavers are being supported against these priorities.
5.	These strategic priorities are Safe and Secure, Happy and Healthy, Resilient and Engaged, and Achieving and Aspiring. The report includes a focus on education outcomes in the academic year September 2023 to August 2024.
6.	The report looks at each strategic priority in turn and comments on areas of development that are needed across the service to enhance our corporate parenting offer to our children and young people. It also highlights areas of development from our Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) standard inspection in May 2023.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
Capital/Revenue	
7.	The service budget allocated to children in care and care leavers placement and accommodation costs, fostering, adoption and all related workforce costs in 2023 / 24 was £33.6M.
Property/Other	
8.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:	
9.	Children Act 2004
Other Legal Implications:	
10.	Equalities Act 2010
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
11.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
12.	None

KEY DECISION?	no
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All _____
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	

Appendices	
1.	Southampton Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023 / 24
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	No
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	NA