

EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CORPORATE PARENTING

I would like to thank the members of the Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for this excellent report which sets out our collective responsibility as corporate parents. I particularly want to thank the work of the Chair of Committee who is also Chair of our Corporate Parenting Board on her commitment to ensure that we all fully understand our responsibility as corporate parents; and in ensuring the voices of our children are heard.

As corporate parents we have a lot to be proud of. Some of our children have successfully realised their academic aspirations and some have secured meaningful work opportunities and vocational training. We also have a large cohort of our children who are fun, happy and are engaged so proudly and loudly in ensuring we hear their voices. They do this through the Children In Care Council and being actively involved in taking on board roles.

However, we know that there is so much more we need to do to protect, nurture, support and guide our most vulnerable children. We need to hear the voices of all our children and ensure that they are given the very best start and opportunities throughout their life to realise their potential and succeed.

The range of evidence set out in the report acknowledges the existing good practice and how the City, together with our partners, are establishing and innovatively strengthening processes to support our children. Our aspiration is to ensure all our children are secure and happy and live in homes where they become a part of a family and thrive.

I welcome the report and the recommendations especially the development of a Corporate Parenting Handbook to support all our elected members in fulfilling their roles as corporate parents. The development of a menu of involvement will enable us all to choose our levels of activity.

I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the elected members from across this Chamber who regularly carry out visits to our Children's homes in their respective wards and across the City.

Cllr Brigid Jones
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools