

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025
DATE OF DECISION:	27 JANUARY 2026 25 FEBRUARY 2026
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR BARNES-ANDREWS CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING
CORPORATE PLAN OUTCOME AND PRIORITIES	Outcome: A More Equal, Healthier, Safer and Growing Southampton
	Priorities: Ensuring placement stability, safeguarding, and permanence for children in care. Promoting physical and mental health, therapeutic support, and trauma-informed practice. Encouraging participation, identity, and belonging, and supporting positive relationships. Improving education outcomes, employment pathways, and aspirations for care leavers.

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
None
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:
Cabinet:

	(i)	To recommend Council approve the annual corporate parenting report (2024 / 25).
Council:		
	(i)	To approve the annual corporate parenting report (2024 / 25).
	(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; including a corporate mentoring scheme for young people and participation in care leaver take over days.
	(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. A child-friendly version will be appended, as a 2-page summary of the main points, including some examples of what children have told us.	
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 2024-2025 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 2024 to August 2025. The service is producing a 'child friendly' version of the report for children and young people.	
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 2024 / 25 (i.e. the Pathways Through Care total) was £32.34M.	
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 in particular the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires the Council to carry out its functions with regard to the proactive need to eliminate discrimination and harassment on the basis of any Protected Characteristic (including age).
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
11.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
12.	The Corporate Plan has specific priorities to <i>"Ensure young people have a good start in life"</i> and <i>"Reflect our role as a corporate parent in everything we do."</i>
13.	Corporate parenting principles are central to local authority strategic priorities because they place children in care and care experienced young people at the heart of decision-making. By embedding these principles across the organisation, the local authority can promote responsibility, accountability and high aspirations, ensuring that services work collectively to improve outcomes in education, health, safety and life chances. Strong corporate parenting underpins prevention, inclusion and equality objectives, supports effective use of resources, and demonstrates the authority's commitment to acting as a good parent would—providing stability, ambition and support for some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

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

Appendices	
1.	Southampton Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2024 / 25
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