

Corporate Parenting Committee

Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 5.00 pm

Please note that this meeting will be held as a socially distanced physical meeting with all members of the Committee required to attend in person.

Guidance on the safe delivery of face-to-face meetings is included at the end of the agenda frontsheet.

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

M Patel (Chair)
Conneely
Gbajumo
Thakkar
Maurice

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Agha, Lloyd, W Mitchell Murray
and Sangani

Councillor:
Colwill, Kansagra

For further information contact: Hannah O'Brien, Governance Officer
020 8937 1339, hannah.o'brien@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are excluded from this meeting.

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

*Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

**Personal Interests:

The business relates to or affects:

(a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:

- To which you are appointed by the council;
- which exercises functions of a public nature;
- which is directed is to charitable purposes;
- whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party of trade union).

(b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item **Page**

1 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The committee is advised that the public may be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the proceedings that exempt information would be disclosed. Meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee are attended by representatives of Care In Action (CIA), the council's Children in Care Council. The committee is therefore recommended to exclude the press and public for the duration of the meeting, as the attendance of CIA representatives necessitates the disclosure of the following category of exempt information, set out in the Local Government Act 1972: - information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

2 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

3 Declarations of interests

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant disclosable pecuniary, personal or prejudicial interests in the items on this agenda.

4 Deputations (if any)

To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 8

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.

6 Matters arising (if any)

To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

7 Update from Care In Action / Care Leavers in Action Representatives

This is an opportunity for members of Care In Action (CIA) and Care Leavers in Action (CLIA) to feedback on recent activity.

- 8 Feedback from Looked After Children: Outcome of the Bright Spots "Your life, your care" survey 2020** 9 - 14
- To provide Brent Corporate Parenting Committee with information about the 'Your life, your care' survey, which was carried out with looked after children and young people in November/December 2020, and how the Council is responding to the results.
- 9 Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2020 - 2021** 15 - 26
- To provide Brent Corporate Parenting Committee with the Annual IRO report prepared by the Safeguarding and Review Service, in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 10 Support for Brent's Looked After Children and Care Leavers from Afghanistan** 27 - 30
- To provide Brent Corporate Parenting Committee with a summary of activity undertaken to support Brent's Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers who originate from Afghanistan.
- 11 Brent Virtual School Annual Report** 31 - 46
- To outline the activity of the Brent Virtual School (BVS) and the educational outcomes of Brent Council's Looked After Children (LAC) for the academic year 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- 12 Brent Fostering Service Quarterly Report, Quarter 2 (July 2021 - September 2021)** 47 - 56
- To provide Brent Corporate Parenting Committee with information about the general management of the in-house fostering service and how it is achieving good outcomes for children, in accordance with standard 25.7 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards (2011). The report covers activity from 1 July – 30 September 2021.
- 13 Six-Monthly Adoption Report (Quarter 1 and 2)** 57 - 72
- To provide Brent Corporate Parenting Committee with information on the activity and progress of Adopt London West for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021.
- 14 Any other urgent business**
- Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Head of Executive and Member Services or her representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 60.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 19 January 2022

Guidance on the delivery of safe meetings at The Drum, Brent Civic Centre

- We have revised the capacities and floor plans for event spaces to ensure they are Covid-19 compliant and meet the current social distancing guidelines.
- Attendees will need to maintain the necessary social distancing at all times.
- Signage and reminders, including floor markers for social distancing and one-way flow systems are present throughout The Drum and need to be followed.
- Please note the Civic Centre visitor lifts will have reduced capacity to help with social distancing.
- The use of face coverings is encouraged with hand sanitiser dispensers located at the main entrance to The Drum and within each meeting room.
- Those attending meetings are asked to scan the coronavirus NHS QR code for The Drum upon entry. Posters of the QR code are located in front of the main Drum entrance and outside each boardroom.
- Although not required, should anyone attending wish to do book a lateral flow test in advance these are also available at the Civic Centre and can be booked via the following link:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/coronavirus/covid-19-testing/if-you-dont-have-symptoms/>