

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2024-25	
REPORT OF Director of Children's Prevention, Family Help & Safeguarding	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee	DATE 13 January 2026
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>This report sets out the annual report on corporate parenting and provides an overview of the achievement, progress and challenges in meeting the needs of Camden's children in care and care experienced young people who are placed both in borough and outside the borough. The report also sets out the priorities for 2026 and covers the period from December 2024 to November 2025.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents which are required to be listed were used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jane Carroll, Head of Corporate Parenting London Borough of Camden, 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG. jane.carroll@camden.gov.uk</p>	
RECOMMENDATION <p>The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on and note the annual report on corporate parenting.</p>	

Signed by:



Rashida Baig, Director of Children's Prevention, Family Help & Safeguarding

Date: 29 December 2025

1. Purpose of Report

This report sets out the annual report on corporate parenting and provides an overview of the achievement, progress and challenges in meeting the needs of Camden's children in care and care experienced young people who are placed both in borough and outside the borough. The report also sets out the priorities for 2026 and covers the period from December 2024 to November 2025.

2. Key questions for the Committee

We would welcome the Committee's feedback on the below:

- What has struck you about Camden's achievement, progress and challenges in meeting the needs of Camden's children in care and care experienced young people?
- What are your thoughts on the proposed promises to Camden's care experienced children and young people, and how we measure against them?
- What are your thoughts on our priorities for 2026 and beyond?

3. Finance Comments of the Director of Finance

The children's social care budget continues to experience significant pressure, driven largely by inflationary increases in external residential placement costs and the growing complexity of care needs. As a result, there is a forecast overspend of £2.6m on the budget for 2025/26.

The report includes actions underway to help mitigate these financial pressures, including the £11.1m capital investment agreed by Cabinet to purchase residential properties for children's social care and supported accommodation for care experienced young people aged 18-25. Over time, this investment will support cost avoidance by expanding in-house provision and reducing reliance on more expensive external placements.

4. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

The Council is required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to have regard to the corporate parenting principles in carrying out its functions in relation to looked after children, relevant children and former relevant children under 25.

The corporate parenting principles are:

- (a) to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- (b) to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- (c) to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- (d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of,

services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
(e) to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
(f) for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
(g) to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

The Council has a general duty to secure, as far as reasonably practicable, for looked after children, accommodation in the area of Camden which meets those children's needs under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989.

5. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Service Annual Report 2024-25