



**Report for:
ACTION/INFORMATION**

**Item Number:
10**

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Ealing Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy
Responsible Officer(s)	Judith Finlay
Author(s)	Marcella Phelan
Portfolio(s)	Children and Families
For Consideration By	Corporate Parent Committee
Date to be Considered	20 th March 2014
Implementation Date if Not Called In	
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	Looked After Children, Care Leavers, Strategy

Purpose of Report:

This Report sets out a draft strategy for Ealing's Looked After Children and Care Leavers for 2014 – 2017. Members of this Committee are invited to review the draft strategy and comment and a final version will go to Cabinet for consideration in April 2014.

1. Recommendations

- I. That Members review the draft LAC Strategy 2014-2017 and Action Plan.
- II. That Members submit any comments for inclusion in the final version that will go to Cabinet in April 2014.

2. Key Implications

2.1 In order to achieve best practice and continue to improve and deliver the best outcomes for our looked after children and care leavers, it is important to

have a clear strategy and objectives against which services and support will be delivered.

2.2 This document sets out key information and strategic intent in relation to the following areas:

- I. Aims and Objectives of our services to LAC and Care Leavers
- II. Performance and trend data
- III. Services available to LAC and Care Leavers
- IV. Structure of the LAC and Leaving Care Service
- V. Links to the Troubled Families Agenda
- VI. Consultation and listening to Children and Young People
- VII. Public Information for Children and Families
- VIII. Additional support for Children and young people with specific needs
- IX. Preparing for independence and leaving care
- X. Placements Strategy
- XI. Adoption and Permanence
- XII. Statutory reviews and the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service
- XIII. Workforce Development and Training Strategy
- XIV. Learning from best practice elsewhere
- XV. Budget and Financial Strategy
- XVI. Action Plan
- XVII. Performance Scorecard

2.3 At this stage the document is in draft form so Members are invited to submit their comments for inclusion in the final version which will be considered at Cabinet in April 2014.

3. Financial

3.1 This is a draft Strategy for information only and delivery will be within available and allocated resources

5. Legal

5.1 Services to Looked after Children and Care Leavers are delivered within the legal framework set out in the Children Act 1989 and the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and related supporting legislation.

6. Value For Money

6.1 Having a clear strategy for this key service area will contribute to ensuring ongoing best value for money and provide a framework against which performance can be monitored.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

N/A

8. Risk Management

8.1 Having a clear strategic framework will also assist in ensuring effective risk management of budgets and service delivery.

9. Community Safety

9.1 Having a clear strategy will ensure that areas of concern re safety of vulnerable children and young people are prioritised and community cohesion of an often marginalised group achieved.

10. Links to Strategic Objectives

10.1 The Strategy will contribute to the overall objective of making Ealing a great place for every child and young person to grow up and ensuring the organisation operates efficiently and effectively.

11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

11.1 Equalities issues are addressed throughout the strategy.

12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

N/A

13. Property and Assets

N/A

14. Any other implications:

N/A

15. Consultation

15.1 The Strategy is now in draft form and comments will be included in a final version that will be considered by Cabinet at the end of April.

16. Timetable for Implementation

16.1 The Strategy will be in place for the period April 2014 – March 31st 2017.

17. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Performance Scorecard

Appendix 2 – Action Plan

18. Background Information

N/A

Consultation (Mandatory)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent to consultee	Date received from consultee	Comments appear in report paragraph:
Internal				
e.g. Darra Singh	e.g. Director, Executive Director			
e.g. Helen Harris	Lawyer Director of Legal Services			e.g. 5. Legal
e.g. Adele Taylor/ Dawn Calvert	Finance Officer/ Director of Finance			e.g. 4. Financial
e.g. David Scott	Councillor Cabinet Member for:			
External				
	A N Other voluntary organisation			
	Police etc			

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
EITHER: Key decision [state the date it was first entered into the Forward Plan OR Non-key decision OR For information (delete as applicable)	Yes/No (delete as applicable) [Yes if it is a general or special urgency key decision, which was not included in the Forward Plan with at least one months' notice] If yes, set out the reasons both why the item was not included and a decision cannot be deferred.

Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:
	First and surname, job title