Appendix 1

Recommendations arising from the CSSC’s Workshop on Corporate Parenting

It is recommended that:

1. Members ask questions to the relevant Cabinet Member on services for looked after children (LAC) at Assembly meetings to raise the profile of LAC. The questions would be supplied in advance to allow the Cabinet Member to bring the relevant information with him/her.

2. All the select committees take an interest in LAC issues, not just the CSSC. The Chair of the Members’ Corporate Parenting Group (MCPG) should receive an invite to a meeting of each of the select committees once every municipal year to discuss the issues affecting LAC and young people which fall under the select committee’s remit. Scrutiny officers should ensure this is placed on the select committee’s annual work programmes.

3. A member of the CSSC regularly attend the MCPG and provide feedback and updates to the CSSC on issues affecting LAC. A copy of the minutes of the last MCPG meeting should be included in CSSC agendas as part of this.

4. A pre-assembly briefing on LAC strictly takes place every year for all councillors with representatives of Skittlz (if they agree) attending to talk about their experiences. The Member Development Officer should keep a check on which members have/ have not attended.

5. Online training on Corporate Parenting be made available for members and the Member Development Officer should check to see who has completed it.

6. Councillors take part in the “Total Respect” training, which involves young people.

7. Members be invited to the LAC Christmas party, Fostering Conference and Leaving Care Awards.

8. All councillors be sent the Annual Report on LAC. They should read this to be familiar with the profile of LAC in the borough.

9. Children’s Services provide an opportunity for councillors to meet with a social worker who works with LAC on an annual basis.

10. Councillors who sit on governing bodies raise the profile of LAC as part of their role in holding school leaders to account and this should include the use of the pupil premium for the benefit of LAC’s education. Officers should produce a “crib sheet” type list of questions these councillors could ask that would support them to do this.