

**REPORT TO THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Corporate Parenting Panel Meeting – 24 July 2014

- DBS Forms** The Panel required to complete DBS forms.
- Minutes** Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2014 agreed.
- Virtual Head** Penny Pattinson, Interim Virtual Head provided a briefing. The Virtual Head Teacher is responsible for the education and settled school environment of all Looked After Children of school age in the borough. It was often a challenge to find suitable schools particularly if the child had special educational needs and there was reluctance from the school to accept the placement. Statistics published by the Department for Education showed LAC were more likely to end up in prison than university. All school age LAC had a Personal Education Plan (PEP). It was noted that the LAC team had recruited a new Senior Officer, due to commence in September 2014.

Members of the Panel requested an update on PEPs compliance. A Virtual School Report would be available in September 2014.

- Fostering** The Service Manager was unavailable to report; deferred. .
The Head of Children’s Services gave an overview of Looked After Children and the responsibilities of the Corporate Parent.
- Reported 211 LAC and young people in Havering, up from 190 last year. Some of the increase was due to growth of the child population in the borough, and increasing numbers of children coming into care through police protection. Various placements of Havering’s Looked After Children discussed, of which in-house fostering was the preferred placement for most children.

- Work Plan** The Corporate Parenting Panel work plan for 2014-2015 was agreed.

LJH 11.08.14