



CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY JULY 25 2007 at 4.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Caroline Pidgeon (chair),
Councillors Veronica Ward (vice-chair), Adedokun Lasaki, Althea Smith, Lewis Robinson, Martin Seaton

ALSO PRESENT John Howard (human resources development manager), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding), Sarah Feasey (legal officer), Claire Foreman (head of corporate affairs) and Richard Blakeley (clerk)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the corporate parenting committee is a new constitutional committee replacing the previous corporate parenting panel.

1. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the corporate parenting committee was noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as being present were confirmed as the voting members.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS AS URGENT

The chair accepted "Children Looked After and the Council's Apprenticeship Programme" and "Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Members" as late and urgent items for the reasons given in the relevant minute.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interest.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Committees and community councils procedure rule 1.9 (4) allows a member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following minutes. Should a member's vote be recorded in respect to an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the minute file and is available for public inspection.

The committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the minute file. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

6. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND THE COUNCIL'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME (see supplemental agenda, page 19)

This item had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept the item as urgent because the committee needed to consider the report and provide their views on the proposed development of the apprenticeship programme to ensure it can provide appropriate opportunities for children looked after and in order for further work to be done in preparation for the next meeting in September.

The head of children looked after service introduced the report. Members asked questions.

- RESOLVED**
1. That the Children's Services Department's work to support care leavers and looked after children to access the Council Apprenticeship Programme be noted.
 2. That a further report on the outcome of the summer intake, matching process and the scope to expand provision of apprenticeships including the council's regeneration partners be received at the next meeting.

7. PRESENTATION ON "CARE MATTERS" WHITE PAPER

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding presented a summary of the "Care Matters" white paper to the committee and raised some of the challenges for Southwark. Members asked questions and thanked the officer for his presentation. The presentation was to be circulated around members after the meeting.

8. OUTCOME OF THE SOUTHWARK'S FOSTERING SERVICE INSPECTION (see page 1)

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding introduced the report. Members asked questions.

- RESOLVED**
1. That the report on the outcome of the Annual Fostering Service Inspection be noted.
 2. That the action plan to address issues raised in the inspection be approved.

9. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER – PERFORMANCE REPORT, MAY 2007 (see page 9)

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED That the report on Children Looked After – Performance report, May 2007 be noted.

10. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2007/8 (see page 16)

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding introduced the proposed workplan for the committee in 2007/8. Members asked that the following extra items be added to the committee's workplan: the looked after children's exam results, an ethnicity breakdown for performance statistics and involving Speakerbox in the work of the committee.

RESOLVED That the committee adopt the workplan subject to the inclusion of items identified by the committee.

11. APPOINTMENT OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

This item had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept the item as urgent because if the committee did not make a decision at this meeting on the appointment of non-voting members this would delay such appointments and would have a detrimental impact on the work of the committee.

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding introduced the item (see supplemental agenda page 24). There was a discussion regarding the involvement of community and voluntary sector groups. Sarah Feasey advised the committee of the voting and access to information rights of co-opted members.

RESOLVED That the Young Southwark Children's Trust and Southwark Primary Care Trust be invited to nominate one representative each as a non voting co-opted member to the corporate parenting panel.

The meeting closed at 5:45

CHAIR:

DATED: