



CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4 2008 at 2.00pm in the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Rajan (chair).
Councillors Adedokun Lasaki, Caroline Pidgeon, Lewis Robinson and Veronica Ward (vice-chair).

ALSO PRESENT: Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist children's and safeguarding), Sarah Feasey (legal officer), Ann Shapiro (virtual headteacher), R McManus (independent reviewing service) and Richard Blakeley (constitutional officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from councillors John Friary and Althea Smith.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

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

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Committees and community councils procedure rule 1.8 (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.

5. **MINUTES** (see pages 1-4)

RESOLVED: The open minutes of the meeting held on June 18 2008 were agreed as the correct record and signed by the chair.

6. **CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE REPORT JUNE 2008** (see pages 5-10)

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

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Southwark's performance against children looked after national and local indicators be noted.
 2. That the long term stability of placements for children looked after be monitored.

7. **CARE MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION** (see pages 11-15)

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

RESOLVED: That the council's progress of implementing the care matters agenda with regard to corporate parenting, family and parenting support, care placements, education, health and well being, transition to adulthood and practitioner support be noted.

8. **THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2008** (see pages 16-45)

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

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) be noted and also the emerging themes affecting children in care in particular:
 - The strengthening of the IRO role
 - The improvement in participation of young people in their review
 - Improved timeliness of reviews
 - Ongoing concerns regarding long-term stability of placements
 - The gradual and consistent decline in the number of children in care
 2. That IROs should present an annual report on the work and performance of the service in delivering improved outcomes for children in care
 3. That representatives of the IRO service should speak to the annual report at a meeting of the corporate parenting committee in 2009.

9. CORPORATE PARENTING WORKPLAN 2008- 09 (see pages 46-48)

The head of children looked after services introduced the report. Members asked questions. Officers advised that the validated GCSE results of looked after children in the borough would be presented to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the corporate parenting workplan be accepted.

The meeting ended at 3.40pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: