



## **CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19 2008 at 2.00pm in the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Lisa Rajan (chair).  
Councillors Abdul Mohamed, Adedokun Lasaki, Althea Smith, 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), Susan Sinclair (adoption service manager) and Richard Blakeley (constitutional officer).

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Friary and Caroline Pidgeon and from co-opted members Lesley Humber (Southwark Primary Care Trust) and Natalia Salli (Southwark Young People's Trust).

### **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**

In the light of the baby P case in Haringey in recent weeks, the chair invited a verbal report from the assistant director for specialist children's and safeguarding to inform the committee of the authority's position with regard to the protection of children at risk.

### **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 1-3)

**RESOLVED:** The open minutes of the meeting held on September 4 2008 were agreed as the correct record and signed by the chair.

**6. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: 2007/2008 ACADEMIC YEAR GCSE RESULTS** (see pages 4-10)

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

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the improvements in supporting, recording and tracking arrangements for looked after children in year 11 be noted.
  2. That the GCSE results for Southwark looked-after children be noted.
  3. That the celebration and award ceremony held Thursday October 30 2008 be noted.
  4. That the proposed change in practice concerning the use of grade appeals be noted.

**7. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008** (see pages 11-18)

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

**RESOLVED:** That the report on children looked after: performance report for September 2008 be noted.

**8. THE VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER** (see pages 19-30)

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

- RESOLVED:**
1. That there be a report on the development of the proposed new approach to improving attainment for children in care at the next meeting.
  2. That the contribution of the virtual head teacher over the past year to the improvement of services be acknowledged.
  3. That the head teacher forum should maximise learning from the virtual head teacher project.

**9. ADOPTION REPORT** (see pages 31-63)

The adoption service manager introduced the report. Members asked questions.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the strong performance of Southwark's Adoption Service be noted.
  2. That the preparation of the Adoption Service for an Ofsted inspection in December 2008 be noted.
  3. That the Adoption Service "statement of purpose" be noted.

**10. KINSHIP POLICY 2008/9** (see pages 64-103)

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

- RESOLVED:** That the approach of Southwark children's services to placing children with family and friends be endorsed.

The meeting ended at 4.00pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**