



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Thursday 18 February 2010 at 1.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)
Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki
Councillor Althea Smith
Barbara Hills, Southwark Primary Care Trust (Non-Voting Co-opted Member)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: None.

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Roisin McManus (deputy QAU manager LAC), Elaine Allegretti (head of strategy and partnerships), Sarah Feasey (legal, children services), John Howard (head of organisational development), Ian Millichap (constitutional manager) and Bola Roberts (constitutional officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councilor Lewis Robinson.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interest.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. ADOLESCENT AND AFTERCARE SERVICES - APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME FOR CARE LEAVERS

The Chair undertook to write to the Children's Trust to encourage the council's partners regarding apprenticeship opportunities.

RESOLVED:

1. That the annual report relating to the apprenticeship scheme being delivered for care leavers be received.
2. That it be noted that apprenticeship scheme rests within the remit of the Adolescent and Aftercare Service for Looked After Children and Care Leavers aged 13-21 and Organisational Development Department.
3. That the steps being taken to engage with council departments to promote higher numbers of apprenticeships and to promote specific allocation target of 20% of apprentice opportunities offered to care leavers be noted.
4. That the progress of the coaching scheme (as outlined at the corporate parenting committee meeting held on 26 November 2009) be noted.
5. That the meeting in July 2010 to include item on coaching schemes for apprentice, to discuss issues from perspective of a coach and young person who should be invited to the meeting.

7. ADOLESCENT AND AFTERCARE SERVICES - CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE

RESOLVED:

1. That the current practice and policy with regards to children missing in care be noted.
2. That the incidences during the last calendar year of children missing from care, duration and age, gender and ethnicity be noted.

8. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE REVIEW

RESOLVED:

1. That the implications for the scope and activity for the Corporate Parenting Committee arising from revised statutory guidelines, national inspection requirements, and new local priorities for children and young people be noted.
2. That the options for the development of the Corporate Parenting Committee set out in paragraph 19 of the report be agreed and the following actions:
 - That a section for new members' role on the Corporate Parenting Committee should be included in the induction handbook.
 - Member induction events on Corporate Parenting involve Speakerbox. It was suggested that Speakerbox could send out a welcome letter or toolkit to new members.
 - Member training in 2010 should communicate the special responsibility of being a corporate parent and reflect its high status for all.
 - Appointing a champion for Children Looked After (CLA), it was suggested that the vice chair undertake this role.
 - At an appropriate thematic meeting of Young Southwark the vice chair or champion attend to represent the committee.
 - The agenda of the committee to mirror the themes to be considered by Young Southwark so the views of members can be reported by the champion.

9. SPEAKERBOX UPDATES

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress of the children's rights officer with Speakerbox be noted on:
 - the Tell It How It Was Project;
 - the 'Children in Care Council' for Southwark;
 - the Southwark Pledge and the London Pledge.
2. That the following be approved:
 - The name Golden Rules for Southwark.
 - The name 'Speaker Box Council for Southwark's Children in Care Council
 - Joint meeting in April to get Southwark Pledge.

3. That the committee receive a further report on the draft Southwark Pledge at its March 2010 meeting subject to the joint meeting of the committee and Speakerbox having taken place before this date, with a further report in July 2010.

10. PROPOSED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2010 - 13

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2010 to 2013 and its implications for the Corporate Parenting Committee be noted.
2. That it be noted the proposed CYPP will be subject to final partner and public consultation, as set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report, with publication by April 2010.

11. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2010

RESOLVED:

That having reviewed its workplan the following reports be allocated for March 2010:

- Children Looked After (CIC) performance indicators 2009 -10 Quarter 4
- Children Looked After Performance report – latest figures
- Annual report – Health of Children in Care
- Southwark Pledge
- Support for new members on Corporate Parenting Committee (CPC)
- NEET Strategy – Update

The meeting closed at 3.20pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: