

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 7 July 2010 at 1.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Althea Smith
Barbara Hills

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding, Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Alistair Wilson (virtual head), Jackie Cook (children's services), Sara Feasey (principal lawyer children's service), Bola Roberts (constitutional officer) Paula Thornton (constitutional officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Catherine Bowman and Patrick Diamond. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Althea Smith.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members 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

Corporate parenting committee at its meeting on 18 February 2010 had requested that “a section for new members’ role on the corporate parenting committee should be included in the members induction handbook.” The committee asked for an update on progress in relation to this request and training for members in their corporate parenting committee role.

The committee also asked that this should also be linked to item 8, New Guidance Around Care Planning for Looked After Children which should also now be included.

RESOLVED:

The open minutes of the meeting of 25 March 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PROVISIONAL END OF YEAR 2009/2010 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted and measures adopted to address performance in relation to long term long-term stability be endorsed.
2. That the committee receive a report on the effectiveness of personal education plans (PEPs) to its 9 November 2010 meeting.

7. ESTABLISHING A VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That officers ensure that speakerbox has been included and engaged as part of the virtual school programme. Speakerbox should be consulted and views sought on an ongoing basis.
3. That a report be received from the virtual head with interim findings to the committee 9 November 2010 meeting.

8. NEW GUIDANCE AROUND CARE PLANNING FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That the introduction of new guidance published in March 2010 to underpin the revised legislation for the care of children looked after by the Local Authority and the implementation of the new guidance by April 2011 be noted.

2. That officers should articulate the corporate parenting committee role in relation to the changes set out in the guidance. This should also be linked with the point made under the minutes section in relation to the members induction handbook and the need to include guidance in this area within the handbook.

9. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORKPLAN 2010-11

RESOLVED:

1. The committee considered the 2010/11 work plan and welcomed the thematic approach for future meetings of the committee based on the Every Child Matters outcomes.
2. That it be noted that additional reports can be requested throughout the year and linked with the Every Child Matters themed meetings as appropriate.
3. The committee requested:
 - That an interim Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) report to be considered at 9 November committee, with a more detailed report as set out on the work plan to be considered on 26 April 2011.
 - That a report on pupil premiums be included for consideration on 9 November 2010 as part of the 'Enjoy and Achieve Theme'.
 - That in relation to the 'Be Healthy Theme' theme on 22 September 2010 it was confirmed by officers that a nurse, along with the designated doctor would attend the committee.
 - That in relation to the substance misuse strategy set out for consideration 22 September 2010, officers should include how the broader strategy fits in and interlinks with adults and young people strategies and other work being undertaken in this area.
 - That in respect of the teenage pregnancy strategy listed for consideration 22 September 2010 as part of the 'Be Healthy' theme, officers should include more detail in respect of children in care and how this relates to the broader strategy, including figures for the last three years.
4. That officers establish a date for members of the committee to meet with speakerbox as soon as possible.

The following issues were raised:

- Celebration event. Confirmed that this event was taking place on 28 October 2010 with invites to be sent shortly.
- Time of committee. The Chair asked Bola Roberts to email members of the committee to seek their views on the current start time of the committee of 1pm. Views would be fed back to Councillor Catherine McDonald once received.

The meeting ended at 2.45pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: