

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 20 July 2011 at 1.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Eliza Mann

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of looked after children service), Jackie Cook, Caroline Essiet, Jaimee Hendry, Patrick Hinds and Allan Robertson (children's services), Paula Thornton and Bola Roberts (constitutional team).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Lisa Rajan and Rosie Shimell.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

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 interests or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. FEEDBACK FROM JOINT MEETING BETWEEN SPEAKERBOX AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE AND SPEAKERBOX ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED:

1. That the notes from the consultation meeting between members of the corporate parenting committee and speaker box be accepted.
2. That the recommendations and actions for individual officers, members and speaker box contained within the body of the report be noted.
3. That the meetings between speaker box and corporate parenting committee members continue to be scheduled twice yearly. The next meeting is set for 26th October 2011.
4. That officers continue to develop and refine communication protocols in terms of clearly advising looked after children and school leavers of changes in personnel and services. This was in response to the concern voiced by speaker box in respect of budget cuts/reduction in staff.

7. SPEAKER BOX MISSION STATEMENT

RESOLVED:

1. That the following documents be welcomed and noted:
 - The Speaker Box mission statement
 - The Speaker Box '10 golden rules'
 - Children Looked After participation strategy 2010 -12
 - The Southwark pledge
 - Participation action plan 2011/12
2. Ways in which to develop, support and strengthen the role of all councillors as corporate parents were considered by the committee. It was agreed that officers would develop a guidance note to include a summary and address key questions as a core document to assist all councillors in their role as corporate parents. Officers to circulate the guidance when drafted to all members of the committee for comment.
3. That members of the corporate parenting committee participate in training to clarify the role of the corporate parent as recommended by speaker box council.

4. That all members of the committee, subject to sufficient notice of events, make all reasonable efforts to attend looked after children events.

8. ADOPTION SERVICES - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RESOLVED:

1. That the annual Statement of Purpose for Southwark's Adoption Service for October 2010 as a requirement of National Adoption Regulations (see Appendix 1 of the report) be noted.
2. That it be further noted that a revised statement of purpose for Southwark's Adoption Service will be submitted to the committee in February 2012.
3. That the committee in February 2012 consider the future annual arrangements for the agreement of the statement of purpose.
4. That the Adoption Chair be invited to the relevant meeting when adoption annual report scheduled (currently February 2012).

9. FOSTERING SERVICES - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RESOLVED:

1. That the annual Statement of Purpose for Southwark Fostering Service is a requirement of National Fostering Regulations (see latest version set out at Appendix 1 of the report) be noted.
2. That it be noted that a further revised statement of purpose for the Southwark Fostering Service will be submitted to the committee in February 2012 for consideration.
3. That the committee in February 2012 consider the future annual arrangements for the agreement of the statement of statement of purpose.
4. That the committee at their February 2012 meeting receive a power point presentation on the new regulations to review progress.

10. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

RESOLVED:

1. That the work plan for 2011/12 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be noted.
2. That the revised Statements of Adoption and Fostering currently scheduled for 8 November 2011 be rescheduled for 21 February 2012.

11. 16-19 BURSARY SCHEME

RESOLVED:

1. That from September 2011 the fact that all young people in care and care leavers will be entitled to a bursary of £1,200 per year whilst in full time post 16 learning be noted.
2. That looked after children and care leavers continue to be made fully aware of the scheme and the need for them to apply. Officers undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that this awareness continues.
3. That the committee undertake an initial review of the scheme in November 2011 as part of the virtual head's report to identify any issues relating to entitlement and take-up.

The meeting ended at 2.30pm

CHAIR:

DATED: