

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Tuesday 21 February 2012 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Althea Smith

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of looked after children service), Jackie Cook, Alasdair Smith, Paul McCarthy (children's services), Paula Thornton, Bola Roberts (constitutional team), Bernard Monaghan (chair of the adoption panel) and Dr. Anthony Tam, Guys and St. Thomas' NHS Trust.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Claire Hickson and Barrie Hargrove.

Apologies were also received from Barbara Hills.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

Additionally, Gordon McCullough (Community Action Southwark) was confirmed as a non-voting co-opted member of the committee.

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 disclosure of interests or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2011 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. PRESENTATION ON CARE PLANNING GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE - THE NEW LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN & CARE LEAVERS

The committee heard a presentation in respect of the above.

The officer confirmed that the government had renewed the legal framework for children in care, with effect 1 April 2011 and the statutory guidance, regulations and legislation that were now applicable. The background and context for these changes were outlined.

7. ADOPTION SERVICE INSPECTION REPORT

The committee heard presentations from Dr. Anthony Tam (Guys and St. Thomas' NHS Trust) and Bernard Monaghan (chair of the adoption panel) in respect of this item.

Officers confirmed that the final Ofsted report was awaited. At this juncture a motion to exclude the press and public was moved in order to consider these preliminary findings.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7a, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.

The committee heard an outline of the key issues and likely recommendations of the Ofsted inspection report which were provisional pending the issue of the final report from Ofsted. Therefore the information was considered in closed session.

The committee returned to open session to consider the report on the agenda.

RESOLVED:

1. That the results of a full Ofsted adoption inspection which took place from 9 – 12

January 2012 be noted.

2. That the ongoing requirements placed upon the corporate parenting committee outlined in the new adoption regulations April 2011 be noted and agreed.
3. That it be noted that the Ofsted Adoption Inspection was GOOD whilst several key areas were outstanding.
4. The committee extended their thanks and congratulations to officers for their hard work and commitment.

8. OFSTED INSPECTION OF THE FOSTERING SERVICE IN DECEMBER 2011

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that Ofsted carried out an announced inspection of the Fostering Service on 12 – 14 December 2011.
2. That it be noted that the report on the inspection was received on 17 January 2012 which confirmed that Ofsted had given the Fostering Service an overall quality rating of GOOD, noting many areas of the service that the inspectors considered to be of outstanding quality (see Ofsted letter – Appendix 1 of the report).
3. That the action plan (set out in paragraph 13 of the report) to address the three recommendations made by Ofsted for securing future improvement of the service be noted and that committee receive updates on the progress of the actions.

9. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

RESOLVED:

1. That the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual report (Appendix A of the report) be noted.
2. That an action plan be drawn up for implementation of the key priorities noted in section 11.2 of the report

10. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH (CAMHS) - CARELINK

This item was deferred.

11. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND OFFENDING

RESOLVED:

That the report outlining service provision for looked after children who enter the care system as a result of offending behaviour be noted. The committee conveyed

their gratitude to all officers and social workers involved.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2011/12

RESOLVED:

1. That the work plan for 2011/12 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be agreed.
2. That the report on child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) carelink be considered at the 'Be Healthy' theme meeting in July 2012.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: