

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Althea Smith
Carolyn Martin

OFFICERS PRESENT: Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care
Alasdair Smith, Acting Head of Service Children Looked After
Jackie Cook, Head of Social Work Improvement and Quality Assurance
Lucy Milich, Children's Rights and Participation Officer
Shirley Walker, Interim Service Manager
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barrie Hargrove and Barbara Hills.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

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

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. FEEDBACK FROM SPEAKER BOX AND SPEAKER BOX ACTION PLAN

The committee watched a film of young people in the out of borough placement, Kirby Moor, Cumbria (educational and residential facility). The film showed interviews with these young people where they shared their experience of what it was like to live out of borough, providing an insight to their thoughts and providing questions for professionals and members at Southwark.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following documents be welcomed and noted:
 - The Speaker Box mission statement
 - Speaker Box work areas and achievements 2012-13
2. That the 2013 -14 children's service participation action plan (including those actions set out in the report) to be completed and presented to the committee for approval.
3. That officers provide a list of placements to members of the corporate parenting committee for looked after children in out of borough placements and their geographical location.

7. CHARTER FOR CARE LEAVERS

RESOLVED:

1. That the information in the report be noted and the adoption of the Charter for Care Leavers supported.
2. That the committee monitor and review the impact of the recently agreed housing lettings policy on young persons (care leavers), including those with young children.

8. PROGRESS REPORT IN RESPECT OF FOSTERING RECRUITMENT

RESOLVED:

That the information provided in the report be noted.

9. CORPORATE PARENTING AND THE VOICE OF THE CHILD IN CARE

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle confirmed that she had responded to the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families setting out the council's response and action to the points listed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, to all lead members for children and the directors of children's services be noted.
2. That the director children's social care brings forward a report to the next corporate parenting committee setting out how Southwark has addressed each of the points made in the letter.

10. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2013/14

RESOLVED:

1. That the work plan for 2013/14 for the corporate parenting committee as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be noted.
2. That the committee receive a report to its April 2014 meeting with regard to the issue of sexual exploitation of young persons.

Meeting ended at 3.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: