

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 4 November 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 Rowenna Davis
Councillor Wilma Nelson
Barbara Hills
Carolyn Martin

OFFICERS PRESENT: Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care
Alasdair Smith, Acting Head of Service Children Looked After
Liz Britton, Manager, Priority Learners
Lucy Milich, Children's Rights and Participation Officer
Darren Coghlan, Head of Secondary and Further Education
Employment and Inclusion
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Althea Smith and Eliza Mann.

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 17 July 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. PUPIL PERFORMANCE IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013 - DEVELOPMENTS LINKED TO THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - EDUCATION TEAM

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

7. 2012/13 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That officers consider the following issues raised by the committee to further improve adoption/fostering performance:
 - Use of voluntary sector network to further publicise initiatives and campaigns
 - Examination of best practice elsewhere and innovative approaches in other boroughs
 - Targets for increasing the number of adopters
 - Utilise the experience and knowledge of existing adopters/foster carers to the benefit of interested/new applicants
 - The need to further improve engagement with the black and ethnic minority community via alternative routes which might include different media outlets and churches
 - The committee to receive feedback on the analysis identified in paragraph 19 of the report. Analysis to identify gaps and how the council can improve and market directly to prospective adopters.
3. That the committee receive a report back to February 2014 meeting on the circumstances that lead children being taken into care.

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

RESOLVED:

That the measures that have been put in place to meet the requirements set out in the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Children and Families, to all Lead Members for Children and the Directors of Children's Services be noted.

9. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DFE) SPOTLIGHT CARE HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL CARE

The committee received a PowerPoint presentation in respect of the use of residential care in Southwark outlining key statistics and patterns. The presentation outlined some of the predominant reasons for placement and current safeguards in place.

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 back to February 2014 meeting on the circumstances that lead children being taken into care with particular reference to domestic violence.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: