

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams

OFFICER SUPPORT: Alisdair Smith, Head of Service Permanence, Children's and Adults' Service
Liz Britton, Lead Officer, Secondary & Further Education, Employment & Inclusion, Children's and Adults' Services
Tasneem Mueen-Iqbal, Policy Officer, Children's and Adults' Services
Simon Mitchell, Senior Commissioning Manager, Children's and Adults' Services
Richard Kusi, Schools Preference Advisor, Children's and Adults' Services
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Hills and Councillor Lorraine Lauder.

1. 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

No urgent items were identified.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. ANNUAL VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the virtual headteacher's report for Southwark Looked After Children set out at Appendix 1 of the report be noted.
2. That a report is received back to the Autumn meeting for key stages 1 and 2 which should also include comparative data (statistical neighbours and progress for looked after children in Southwark schools over a five year period).

7. SOUTHWARK'S ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY AND HOW THIS IMPACTS LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that officers will undertake an audit to understand the numbers of Southwark looked after children and care leavers with autism. The audit will then be followed by a review of the support needs of those children, and the support and training needs of those providing the support.
2. That an update report is received at the July 2016 committee to show progress and the timeline to achieve targets. Report also to identify key 'headline' information and to include health and the numbers of looked after children with autism.

8. CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE: UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the information presented in the report from St Christopher's Missing Children Service which provides independent return interviews to looked after children who go missing from home and care be noted.
2. That with regard to the various agencies referenced in the report, that officers provide members of the committee with a diagram to illustrate how these all fit together.

9. UPDATE ON CARE SERVICE RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED BY SPEAKERBOX

RESOLVED:

1. That the issues and concerns raised by Speakerbox at its meeting with corporate parenting committee on 27 October 2015 be noted.
2. That the action taken by the service in response to the concerns be noted and that progress continues to be monitored through its termly meetings with Speakerbox.
3. That Councillor Victoria Mills write to the children's rights officer on behalf of the committee to outline their response to the issues raised at the Speakerbox meeting held on 27 October 2015 and as set out in the report.
4. That an update report on progress be received to the July 2016 committee as outlined in the minutes for item 12 (to also include sibling contact, quality of placements and training).

10. PRESENTATION: PLACEMENT STABILITY AND UPDATE ON STATISTICS

The committee received a presentation from the assistant director, corporate parenting in respect of placement stability and an update on statistics. The committee heard details of a number of case studies in respect of a number of stable and unstable placements.

RESOLVED:

That an additional meeting of the committee be set up in order to discuss the detail provided in the presentation and receive feedback.

11. PRESENTATION: SOUTHWARK INFORMATION ADVISORY SERVICE

The committee heard a presentation from the Southwark Information Advisory Service providing an overview of the law for children looked after, special educational needs and disability (SEND). The officer outlined the support in place for looked after children and carers providing an example of a case study. The local offer for this group was explained and alternative provisions. The officer explained the work that was undertaken with the young people and care leavers, including focus groups with young people and their representatives.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE: WORK PLAN 2015/16

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that the committee will receive the 2016/17 work plan at its next meeting.
2. That the committee receive the following items to its July 2016 meeting:
 - Foster care training available, including foster carers experience

- Transition from care to independent living – report back on outcome of review of semi-independent living/supported housing
 - Innovation projects
 - Update on autism report outlined in item 7 of the minutes
 - Report back on Speakerbox item (to include sibling contact, quality of placements and training).
3. That the committee receive the following items to its Autumn 2016 meeting:
- A readiness for school evaluation and the clarification at the point at which the child/young people enter care
 - Report from virtual headteacher outlined in item 6 of the minutes.

The meeting ended at 5.00 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: