

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 1 March 2017 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 Helen Dennis
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams (Vice-chair)

OFFICER SUPPORT: David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services, Children's and Adults' Services
Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families
Edward Wong, Assistant Director - Corporate Parenting, Children's and Adults' Services
Dr. Stacy John-Legere, Designated Doctor
Angela Brown, Designated Nurse
Liz Britton, Children's and Adults' Services
Vanessa White, Head of Service, Permanence, Children's and Adults' Services
Dan Barton, Virtual Headteacher
Helen Woolgar, Children's and Adults' Services
Elizabeth Murphy, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist
Dechaun Malcolm, Children's Rights and Participation Officer with two young people from Speakerbox
Robyn Parker, Children's and Adults Services
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Hills.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

No disclosures or dispensations were made. Councillor Jasmine Ali declared an interest with regard to Item 8 on the fostering service by virtue of her employment as a fostering policy adviser. This was not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. VIRTUAL HEADTEACHERS REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the virtual headteacher's report for Southwark looked after children be noted.
2. That the good work undertaken by the fixed term adviser posts for looked after children be noted. The committee expressed their wish as corporate parents that this work and the fixed term posts should continue.

(Note: Officers to emails members of the corporate parenting committee figures requested for the past five years - GCSE and KS2 cohort, page 8 of the report).

7. SOUTHWARK LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

RESOLVED:

That the report and Appendices 1 and 2 be noted.

8. FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the annual report of Southwark fostering service 2015-16 be noted.
2. That feedback from the corporate parenting committee relating to communications, foster care recruitment and sufficiency be noted.

9. POSITION STATEMENT ON CHILD PROTECTION PLAN INCREASES

This report was deferred until the next meeting of the committee. The report to be updated with latest numbers when presented to the April committee.

10. SPEAKERBOX UPDATE (VERBAL)

The committee heard a presentation from Speakerbox covering the following issues:

- The 11 Golden Rules
- Efforts to recruit new members
- Use of Speakerbox notice board
- Speakerbox website
- About Speakerbox
- News, child friendly glossary and member area
- Plans for 2017 campaigns (including sibling contact, relationships and emotional wellbeing).

The committee heard about the personal experiences of two young people directly as part of this presentation, including some extremely moving poetry and a song to demonstrate these feelings on sibling contact.

Speakerbox agreed to come back to corporate parenting committee after the conclusion of these campaigns. Speakerbox encourage and welcome all ideas from the committee and talked about various initiatives including links with the performing arts and sports activities planned.

11. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) ESCALATIONS BREAKDOWN - UPDATE

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12. SECURE BASE IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL AND DESIGNATED TEACHERS

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

13. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2016-17

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. Ideas for the 25 April 2017 agenda were discussed as follows:

- Report on out of borough placements / sufficiency strategy. (The sufficiency strategy might not be ready until the committee for July 2017)
- Sparkerbox (out of borough placements. Feedback from children out of the borough, including health and educational experiences)
- Position statement on child protection plan increases
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Meeting ended at 4.45 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: