

## Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 10 July 2017 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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- PRESENT:** Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)  
Councillor Jasmine Ali  
Councillor Helen Dennis  
Councillor Kath Whittam  
Councillor Kieron Williams  
Florence Emakpose (Non-voting co-opted)
- OFFICER SUPPORT:** David Quirke-Thornton, Director of Children's and Adults Services  
Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families  
Rachel Flagg, Head of Joint Commissioning for Children and Young People, CCG  
Helen Woolgar, Children's and Adults Services  
Andrew Fowler, Children's and Adults Services  
Sophie Gray, Senior Joint Commissioning Officer, CCG  
April Bald, Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding, Children's and Adults' Services  
Jackie Cook, Head of Social Work Improvement and Quality  
Dechaun Malcolm, Children's Rights and Participation Officer  
Robyn Parker, Children's and Adults Services  
Beverley Olamijulo, Constitutional Team  
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Evelyn Akoto.

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

### **Barbara Hills, Co-opted member**

The chair announced the sad passing of Barbara Hills who served as a co-opted member on the corporate parent committee since February 2009. The chair said Barbara was a great contributor to these meetings. On behalf of the committee, the chair said she would convey her condolences to Barbara's family.

### **3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

The chair announced that the election of the vice-chair for the municipal year 2017-18 would be deferred until the next meeting. It was noted that the council assembly meeting on 12 July 2017 would consider the appointments of committee memberships.

### **4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT**

No urgent items were identified.

### **5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

No disclosures or dispensations were made.

### **6. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

### **7. SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2017- 2020**

The head of joint commissioning for children and young people, clinical commissioning (CCG) presented the report and outlined detail about the sufficiency strategy which was to meet the needs and improve the outcomes for looked after children, and young people.

The committee were asked to note and agree the key priorities of the sufficiency strategy and proposed timescales for strategy development.

#### **The key priorities:**

1. Look at a preventative intervention on fostering and commissioning framework which Croydon council have been leading on since 2013.
2. Look at cost implications within the existing framework.
3. Review of residential placements – six recommendations were considered and presented at cabinet in May 2017.
4. Time scales: June/July – council proposes to meet with stakeholders, health forums

and social care providers.

5. Propose special care needs assessment and engagement with young people, speakerbox and other youth groups.
6. Issues highlighted at the meeting included the variety and diversity of foster carers, addressing adolescents with their particular needs and the support that was provided.
7. The council's housing allocation policy discussed and need for data indicated. Confusion raised about bands 1 and 2
8. To help develop the sufficiency strategy, a workshop had been arranged for foster carers to attend so they could give their input.
9. Further queries were raised about the support of local children being placed out of the borough and essential that the sufficiency strategy should address.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the key priorities of the sufficiency strategy be noted.
2. That the proposed timescales for the strategy development be agreed.
3. That it be noted that the draft strategy would involve more discussion with members in August 2017 (virtual) so that any comments or ideas could be incorporated.
4. That officers present a final report to the committee in November 2017.

**8. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT MARCH 2017**

The committee took on board the officer's comments from the Ofsted inspection report concerning the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

- The meeting were informed that a huge amount of work had been undertaken by those within the council.
- That the children's services in Southwark were classified as good.
- That a number of social workers were contacted on their case management and the effectiveness on arrangements to help and protect children.
- Reported that assessments were of a high standard and the council adopted best practice for long term foster care.
- Reported that there was a good range of support for the carer.

The meeting addressed queries about the specific level of care and quality of placement. Also the placement of care leavers, review of housing allocation, external fostering services and addressing criminal exploitation of young people and the advice services.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Ofsted inspection report in March 2017 be noted.
2. That it be noted that the post action plan will be presented to cabinet in September, prior to its submission to Ofsted.
3. That officers organise a separate briefing for members of the committee on the proposed action plan in September.

**9. SPEAKERBOX - PRESENTATION**

The committee watched videos of young people who voiced their views (as a sibling) about how they were not being able to contact or be part of their brothers or sisters lives since being placed in care. It was noted that work would continue to assist foster carers and provide support to the families that had become estranged.

**10. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2017-18**

**RESOLVED:**

That the work plan for 2017-18 be noted.

The meeting ended at 4.15pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**