



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 10 November 2010 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Althea Smith
Barbara Hills

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Alastair Wilson, (interim virtual school headteacher), Darren Coghlan (14-19 partnership), Bola Roberts (constitutional officer) and Paula Thornton (constitutional officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Patrick Diamond and Lisa Rajan.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members present were confirmed as the voting members.

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

There were no urgent items.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting of 22 September 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. PUPIL PERFORMANCE IN 2009/2010 ACADEMIC YEAR AND THE DEVELOPMENTS LINKED TO THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the virtual head incorporate further detail in his annual report to the corporate parenting committee relating to the expected and actual educational achievement of children in care.

7. CHILDREN IN CARE ACCESSING LEISURE, INCLUDING FUSION PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED:

1. That the framework for supporting leisure for looked after children as part of the be healthy agenda, and the initiatives to promote hobbies and leisure activities to develop a healthy lifestyle and build confidence as part of enjoy and achieve agenda be noted.
2. That the council's procurement team and cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics be requested to review and extend Fusion's partnership for a further three year period from April 2011:

The review to include:

- a. raising the age by one year to aged 20
 - b. improving data recording and tracking arrangements
 - c. maintaining level of 150 top memberships
 - d. streamlining registration processes for looked after children
 - e. raising access to the minimum age of 14
3. To acknowledge the importance of councillors attending the social leisure event and the need to support such events on an ongoing basis in their role as 'corporate parents'.

8. INTERIM REPORT NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEETS)

RESOLVED:

1. That the interim progress report concerning not in education and employment training (NEET) strategy for children in care (CiC) be noted. A full report will be presented at

“achieve economic wellbeing” corporate parenting committee meeting scheduled for 26 April 2011.

2. That the new children looked after (CLA), not in education and employment training (NEET) strategy and action plan introduced in April 2010 be noted.
3. That the cabinet member for children’s services makes a written enquiry to the strategic director of children’s services to ask how the current review of early years provision will ensure looked after children and care leavers who are parents are supported in ensuring education or employment, and to share the response with the committee.
4. That the cabinet member for children’s services be requested to write to the 14-19 partnership to ask them to set out how the current strategy to support Southwark College will specifically meet the needs of older children in care and care leavers and to share the response with the committee.
5. That the principal of Southwark College be invited to attend the April meeting of the corporate parenting committee in order to ensure that the needs of looked after children are met and that measures are in place to monitor progress.
6. That the cabinet member for children’s services write to the council’s economic development division to ensure that some jobs are targeted at looked after children and that providers are made aware that some of Southwark’s looked after children may live outside the borough.

9. EFFECTIVENESS OF PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS

RESOLVED:

1. That the children’s services approach to delivering effective personal education plans (PEP’s) for every school aged looked after child be noted.
2. That Southwark children’s services write to all designated teachers, outlining: a) the role of the virtual head and the importance of the personal education plans; and b) asking designated teachers to set out their aspirations for children looked after (CLA) and their role in improving performance.

10. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER WITH 3 OR MORE PLACEMENTS

RESOLVED:

1. The report set out in appendix 1 on children in care with 3 or more placements be noted.
2. Following the theme of undertaking a more detailed look at specific issues identified by the committee, officers be requested to report back to the corporate parenting committee on families that are subject to multiple care proceedings and outline preventative and supportive measures in place.

11. CHILDREN IN CARE PLACEMENTS COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

1. That the outline commissioning strategy for children in care and proposed priorities as set out in paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 of the report be agreed.
2. That it be noted that 'in principle' savings cannot put children at risk.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

RESOLVED:

1. That the corporate parenting committee work plan for 2010-11 be noted.
2. That officers timetable 'to be allocated' items and update work plan accordingly.

OTHER ISSUES

Speakerbox

Councillor Catherine McDonald provided feedback from the Speakerbox event in October 2010.

1. Mission statement. Speakerbox would like corporate parenting committee to approve this statement once finalised. To be submitted to the February 2010 meeting.
2. Golden Rules. Speakerbox would like corporate parenting committee to sign the finished document. These rules (current version read out by Councillor Catherine McDonald) were noted in anticipation of the final document which would be emailed to members of the committee for signature.
3. That the need to slightly amend the word 'respect' on the golden rules to demonstrate mutual respect be noted.
4. That members to be given reasonable notice to attend speakerbox events.

Financial – savings and loans

An issue was raised relating to children when leaving care and setting up their own home and the problems that can arise if tempted by loan sharks with associated high interest rates in the absence of savings. It was confirmed that this would be addressed as part of the economic well being report due for consideration by the committee in April 2011.

The meeting ended at 8:55pm

CHAIR:

DATED: