



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 16 February 2011 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Althea Smith
Barbara Hills

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Alasdair Smith, Jenny Brennan, Roisin McManus Jackie Cook (children services), Sarah Feasey (legal), Bola Roberts (constitutional officer) and Everton Roberts (constitutional officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eliza Mann.

2. 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

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 held on 10 November 2010 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual report be noted and approved for submission to the Department for Education (DfE).
2. That an action plan be developed from the report by the head of the quality assurance unit and is integrated into the children's specialist services business/service planning process for 2011/12.

7. CHILDREN IN CARE AND YOUTH OFFENDING

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised procedure and guidance of the youth offending protocol implemented in 2010 be noted.
2. That a letter be sent to the lead officer and chair of the Safer Southwark Partnership to request a briefing on the key issues affecting children on the cusp of care and how the role of the Section 20 resource panel could be promoted.
3. That the low rates of criminal activity concerning Southwark's children in care compared with both London Authorities and England be noted.
4. That the strategic director of children's services be recommended to ensure that the children in care drop-in service is included as part of the review of youth services to ensure continued support for looked after young people is provided in future.

8. PLACEMENT STABILITY

RESOLVED:

1. That the significant progress made since the JAR (Joint Area Review) inspection in April 2008 to deliver improved permanent outcomes for looked after children be recognised.
2. That the proposed reconfiguration of the fostering service to deliver increased numbers of new carer approvals whilst retaining the capacity of the service to continue providing high levels of carer support and stability be supported.

3. That the proposed management integration of the adoption and permanence service into the 0-12 service be supported.
4. That the Virtual Head provide an appraisal concerning the possible impact the reconfiguration of the children looked after education team might have upon placement support and stability.
5. That the lead commissioner of CAMHS (Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services) review and report on the impact of any proposed service reductions upon Carelink and its capability to deliver targeted interventions for children in care and foster carer support. The review to include impact on young people in gangs or at risk of gang activity.

9. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND INTERIM CARE ORDERS

RESOLVED:

That Appendix 1 of the report on looked after children with interim care orders be noted.

10. CARE PROCEEDINGS ACTIVITY - LEGAL SERVICES

RESOLVED:

That the report and its findings submitted in response to the committee's request raised on 10 November 2010 for a report of families that are subject to multiple care proceedings and outlining preventive and supportive measures in place be noted.

11. STAY SAFE PERFORMANCE UPDATE - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the good work on apprenticeship and support of young children in job attainment be noted.
3. That a further report on the new proposed government scheme to replace education maintenance allowance (EMA) and its' impact on the needs of looked after children be received.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2010/2011

RESOLVED:

1. That the corporate parenting committee work plan for 2010/11 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be noted.

2. That a report on the new proposed scheme to replace education maintenance grant (EMA) be included for consideration at the next meeting themed economic wellbeing.

OTHER ISSUES

1. Virtual Head report to be allocated at next meeting. Appraisal concerning the possible impact the reconfiguration of the children looked after education team might have upon placement support and stability.
2. The Chair to write to head of economic development, inviting her to corporate parenting committee for an update of her work and finding out how Southwark young people will benefit from work opportunities around the Shard.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 1 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Southwark Constitution.

The following is a summary of the decisions taken in the closed section of the meeting.

13. CHILDREN IN CARE AND YOUTH OFFENDING

The members noted the evaluation on adolescence and aftercare duty service of Southwark social services contained in the closed document. See item 7 for decision.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

CHAIR:

DATED: