



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Tuesday 8 November 2011 at 2.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Catherine McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Eliza Mann
Barbara Hills

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lisa Rajan, Althea Smith and Rosie Shimell.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as presented 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 20 July 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. CHILDREN IN CARE ACCESSING LEISURE PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised and improved partnership with Fusion for a further 3 year period from April 2011 be noted.
2. That the revised use and allocation of a pupil premium for each child in care be noted.
3. That the ongoing framework for supporting additional sport and leisure activities for all school age looked after children as part of the "Being Healthy" agenda be noted.

7. COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

RESOLVED:

1. That the updated Commissioning Strategy for Children in Care (Appendix 1 of the report) be noted setting out the key priorities for:
 - redirecting resources to reduce the need for children coming into care when safe to do so
 - improving outcomes for children in care
 - improving the quality and value for money of services for children in care.
2. That any future reports back seek to clarify the cohorts of students who do go on to do GCSE and A levels.

8. PERFORMANCE REPORT, SERVICES FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That officers undertake a detailed analysis of the factors involved in the speed and placement of children for adoption and a report be received back to the committee in February 2012.

9. FOSTERING SERVICES - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RESOLVED:

1. That the Southwark's Fostering Service Statement of Purpose (as required under National Fostering Regulations, Appendix 1 of the report) be noted.
2. That the statement of purpose for the Southwark Fostering Service will be reviewed and submitted to the corporate parenting committee on an annual basis be noted.

3. That the Southwark's Fostering Services current strong performance for delivering good outcomes for children placed with the service (Appendix 2 of the report) be noted.
4. That following the fostering inspection due shortly, a report be brought back on the outcome and any issues arising to the committee in February 2012.

10. ADOPTION SERVICE REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised Adoption Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide to Adoption which reflects changes in regulations, statutory guidance and National Minimum Standards as well as the restructure of the service from 1 April 2011 (Appendix 1of the report) be noted.
2. That the annual report provided for corporate parenting committee on the adoption service for the period 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011 and mid year report 1 April 2011 – 30 September 2011 (Appendices 2 and 3 of the report) be noted.
3. That officers undertake a detailed analysis of the cohort of children due for adoption, examining all relevant issues, including health needs and demographic factors that might be pertinent to the speed of the adoption process report back to the committee in February 2012.
4. That Dr. Anthony Tam be invited to the February 2012 committee to talk about his experience and knowledge on health issues facing children waiting for adoption.

11. UPDATE ON SOUTHWARK COLLEGE COURSES AND THE PREFERENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. The it be noted that:
 - Southwark College has an agreement in place that all looked after children and care leavers will be guaranteed an interview for an appropriate course at the College (who wish to have one
 - Significant development has taken place at the college to develop a vocational curriculum that has been co-designed with local employers to better meet local employment needs
 - A specialist dyslexia centre for post 16 looked after children has been opened at the college in partnership with the council.
2. That the Principal of the College be invited to attend the corporate parenting committee meeting next year to report back on the impact of these changes.

12. REVIEW AND MONITOR OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN LIGHT OF THE FEE REGIME

RESOLVED:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That the committee receive a report back in September 2012 in order to monitor the situation relating to any likely impacts on access to higher education in light of the change in the fee regime.

13. PUPIL PERFORMANCE IN 2010/11 AND THE DEVELOPMENTS LINKED TO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

RESOLVED:

1. That the information in the report be noted.
2. That officers (head of specialist education and virtual head) write to the post 16 educational provision (school, colleges and other institutions) that are attended by Southwark children to commend the priority currently accorded to looked after children within the admissions process and to seek assurance that this will continue in order to continue to build upon improvements in results for these children.

14. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2011/12

RESOLVED:

1. That the work plan for 2011/12 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be agreed.
2. That officers include as part of the 'Be Healthy' theme in July 2012 the issue relating HIV infection rates among young people in developed countries.

The meeting ended at 4.00pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: