



CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY APRIL 2 2009 at 2.00pm in the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillors Lisa Rajan (chair), Veronica Ward (vice chair) Lewis Robinson.

ALSO PRESENT: Cheryl Powell (scrutiny officer), Sarah Feasey (legal officer), Anne Marie Buchanan (CLA education team manager), Maria Heydon (childrens services officer), Jean E Hughes (services manager), David Hook (policy officer), John Howard (head of organisational development) Paul Angeli (business manager for assessment and safeguarding support) and Richard Blakeley (constitutional officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Friary, Althea Smith and Caroline Pidgeon and Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist children's and safeguarding).

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as being present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS AS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Committees and community councils procedure rule 1.8 (4) allows a member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following minutes. Should a member's vote be recorded in respect to an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the minute file and is available for public inspection.

The committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the minute file. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

5. MINUTES (see pages 1 to 3)

RESOLVED: The open minutes of the meeting held on February 3 2009 were agreed as the correct record.

6. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE REPORT (see pages 4 to 23)

The business manager for assessment and safeguarding support introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the children looked after performance report be noted and the measures adopted be endorsed.
2. That the analyses in paragraph 25 and 34 of the report be clarified with the chair before the next meeting.
3. That future performance reports should contain numbers instead of percentages where this improves the quality of the report.

7. REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09
(see pages 24 to 32)

The business manager for assessment and safeguarding support introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED: That the interim annual report on Referral and Assessment 2008-09 be noted.

8. NEW APPROACH TO IMPROVING ATTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN IN CARE (see pages 33 to 37)

The CLA education team manager introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED: That the range of activities and support to promote the best possible educational outcomes for Southwark's looked after children be noted.

9. LONG TERM STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS (see pages 38 to 40)

The business manager for assessment and safeguarding support introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the current measures to improve the long term stability of children in care be noted.
2. That a report on the long term stability of placements to include more analysis and case studies be placed on the workplan for the committee in the next year.

10. SPEAKERBOX

The item was withdrawn for consideration at the next meeting of the committee.

11. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS SEEKING ASYLUM (see pages 41 to 46)

The childrens services officer introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED: That the services and issues relating to unaccompanied minors seeking asylum be noted.

12. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND THE COUNCIL'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

The Head of Organisational Development introduced the report. Members asked questions.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the corporate parenting committee request the Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services to assist and advise on the inclusion of a term in procurement contracts that supports the employment of 1 apprentice for every £1 million value of contract.
 2. That the executive member for childrens services writes to chief officers requesting their continued support and commitment to engaging and supporting greater opportunities within Southwark's apprenticeship scheme.

13. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2009-10 (see pages 51 to 54)

The constitutional officer introduced the report. Members asked questions.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That a presentation regarding the Laming report, a repeat item regarding placement stability and a report on the working relationship between the children looked after and youth offending team be tabled at the next meeting in June 2009.
 2. That the remainder of the four points identified for service improvement in the Joint Area Review be timetabled for the committee workplan in 2009-10.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: