



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 2 November 2015 at 1.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Barbara Hills (Co-opted)

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care
Alisdair Smith, Head of Service Permanence, Children's and Adults' Service
Jane Scott, Team Manager, Specialist Children Services
Elaine Gunn, Children's and Adults Services
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Florence Emakpose and Councillor Jasmine Ali.

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

No urgent items were identified.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. UPDATE ON LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) AUDIT BY PUBLIC HEALTH

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress to date and the challenges caused by lack of staff capacity be noted.
2. That the committee receive an update to a future meeting (terms of reference/ project plan).

7. FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

RESOLVED:

That the annual report of Southwark Fostering Service 2014/15 be accepted.

8. ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

RESOLVED:

That the annual report of Southwark Adoption Service 2014/15 be accepted.

9. CARE LEAVERS TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD

RESOLVED:

The information presented in the report was considered by the committee on transitional support for care leavers and that the actions the council are taking to ensure positive outcomes are achieved for care leavers in Southwark be noted.

10. CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

1. The committee considered an outline of the draft children in care and care leavers strategy and project plan for the delivery of the strategy, to be approved at cabinet.
2. The committee provided the following comments on the draft children in care and care leavers strategy ("the strategy"):

- Under “our vision, our values and principles” adjust the tone of the comments to be more ‘parent’ focussed and to change word “we” to read “as parents”
 - Joint foreword with SpeakerBox
 - Concern that children are not labelled as ‘different’ by virtue of their looked after status and that this is captured within the strategy
 - Reference to strategy in foster carers newsletter to be circulated in next of couple of weeks as part of the wider stakeholder consultation planned
 - Rework narrative to show the progress that we have already ,made in some areas
 - To look at information contained in pages 64-72 and take out any repetition regarding the strategic priorities and outcomes
 - Model of social work practice to be drawn out a bit more in the strategy.
3. That the proposed project plan for the adoption and delivery of the strategy be noted.
 4. That each department be requested to make a pledge to children in care and care leavers for 2016/2017.
 5. That the delivery of the actions in the strategy be monitored through the work plan of the committee.
 6. That once the strategy is considered by cabinet that the committee be advised of details of any changes/updates to the strategy.

11. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2015/16

RESOLVED:

1. That the work plan for 2015/16 as set out in paragraph 3 of the report be noted.
2. That the draft agenda for committee in February 2016 be agreed as follows:
 - Report back on St. Christopher’s project in order to review the process
 - Annual virtual headteacher report
 - Update on councillor workshops on children missing from care
 - SpeakerBox update to track actions and feedback (including communication, family and contact and placements)
 - Southwark Information Advisory Service to be invited to this meeting and work undertaken in respect of transitioning for looked after children
 - Autism strategy and how impacts looked after children
 - Placement stability and update on statistics. Committee to look at case studies of 15 unstable and 5 stable/positive placements.

The meeting ended at 3.03pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: