



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Thursday September 24 2009 at 1.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)
Councillor Sandra Rhule (Reserve)
Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki
Councillor Eliza Mann
Barbara Hills, Southwark Primary Care Trust (Non-Voting Co-opted Member)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: None

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Roisin McManus (deputy QAU manager LAC), Ian Millichap (constitutional team manager) and Bola Roberts (constitutional officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Althea Smith and Lewis Robinson. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Eliza Mann.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as being present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting. It was noted that Councillor Sandra Rhule was attending as a reserve for Councillor Althea Smith.

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 interest or dispensations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on Thursday September 24 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

In response to a question from members, the assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding stated that a fuller report on education achievements would be submitted to the November 2009 meeting. He added that officers would provide a verbal update on provisional results data under item 9 elsewhere on the agenda.

6. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

The assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding introduced the report. Members asked questions of officers. In response to a request from members, the assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding undertook to provide an expansion of ethnic breakdown categories for future reports (see page 15 of the agenda).

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted and the measures be endorsed to address performance in relation to long-term stability.
2. That a further report be received by the committee at its November 2009 meeting.

7. SPEAKERBOX UPDATE

The deputy QAU manager LAC introduced the report. Members asked questions of officers. It was noted that a colour copy of the leaflet written by Speakerbox (see pages 23-26 of the agenda) had been circulated at the meeting. The meeting discussed possible matters for discussion at the joint meeting with Speakerbox, including: independent review officers service, children's council and mentoring. Councillors were invited to submit any further items for discussion to officers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the work undertaken by Speakerbox to date and current progress be noted.
2. That officers circulate papers for the joint meeting with Speakerbox on October 26 2009 to allow members of the committee to read in advance of the meeting.

8. ANNUAL REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW OFFICERS (IRO) SERVICE

Councillor Eliza Mann arrived at 1.40pm.

The deputy QAU manager LAC introduced the report. Members asked questions of officers. The following issues were discussed by the committee: reporting arrangements to the lead elected councillor for LAC; composition of the independent review officer (IRO) service, including gender and ethnicity; recruitment strategy for social workers; and review meetings. The committee also heard about the operation of the integrated children's IT system (ICS) and the ongoing issues of network capacity and the interface with Citrix.

RESOLVED:

1. That committee noted the progress of the independent reviewing officer service and progress on the action plan.
2. That it be noted that an annual report on independent review will be coming back next year.

Councillor Adedokun Lasaki left the meeting at 1.53pm.

9. UPDATE ON GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS

The assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding introduced the report and gave a verbal update on the provisional data currently available on GCSE examination results. Members asked questions of officers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the measures undertaken by the Children Looked After Service to gather the GCSE examination key stage (KS2) results for Southwark children in care be noted.
2. That the verbal update on results in 2009 be noted and a report be prepared for the next meeting in November 2009, which should include comparable data on previous examination results.

10. WORK PLAN

RESOLVED:

1. That the following changes be made to the committee's work plan for 2009-10:

November 26 2009

- Care Leavers (themed meeting on this issue)
 - Coaching Scheme for Care Leavers
 - Aftercare Service for Care Leavers

➤ Employment, Education and Training for Care Leavers

- GCSE Examination Results

February 11 2010

- 16 plus Personal Allowances and Access to Banking
- Apprenticeship Schemes
- Children and Young Persons Plan

Spring 2010

- Children in Care Councils

2. That the meeting scheduled for April 2010 be rearranged for late March 2010.

The meeting ended at 2.29pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: