



CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY JANUARY 31 2008 at 4.00pm in the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Caroline Pidgeon (chair).
Veronica Ward (vice-chair), Althea Smith, Lewis Robinson, Eliza Mann and John Friary.
Lesley Humber (co-opted member: Southwark Primary Care Trust).

ALSO PRESENT: Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist and safeguarding), Sarah Feasey (legal officer), Melissa Collins (department co-ordinator), Anne Shapiro (virtual headteacher), Judith Bowden (representative of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust) and Richard Blakeley (clerk).

1. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the corporate parenting committee was noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Natalia Salli (co-opted member: Young Southwark).

3. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

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

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

There were no urgent items.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interest and dispensation.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Committees and community councils procedure rule 1.9 (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.

6. MINUTES (see pages 1-3)

RESOLVED: That the open minutes of the meetings held on November 22 2007 be agreed as the correct record.

7. CHILD AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (CAMHS) SPEND ALLOCATIONS FOR 2007/8 (see pages 4-9)

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the level of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) spend in Southwark for 2007/8 be noted.
2. That the commitment to providing a comprehensive and inclusive service for all children looked after and for ensuring access to CAMHS support during transition to permanency where applicable be noted.
3. That the reduction in CAMHS funding to Southwark through the area based grant (ABG) over the next three years, from £1.5m in 2006/7 to £1.213m 2008/9, £1.283m 2009/10 and £1.351m in 2010/11 be noted.
4. That the chair should write to the relevant government department regarding the reduction in CAMHS funding.

8. JOINT AREA REVIEW (JAR) PREPARATION (see pages 10-14)

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED: That the programme of preparation for the Joint Area Review (JAR) in Southwark which will take place between February and April 2008 be noted.

9. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS SEEKING ASYLUM (see pages 15-21)

The assistant director of specialist children's services and safeguarding introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED: That the services and issues relating to unaccompanied minors as set out in the report be noted.

10. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND OFFENDING (see page 22-25)

The head of children looked after service introduced the report. Members asked questions.

RESOLVED: That the service provision for looked after children who enter the care system as a result of offending behaviour as outlined in this report be noted.

11. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND THE COUNCIL'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME (see pages 26 to 32)

The head of children looked after service introduced the report. Members asked questions.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the children's services department's work to support care leavers and looked after children to access the council's apprenticeship programme be noted.
 2. That the initiatives currently proposed to attract more applications from 'children looked after' be supported.
 3. That the chair will seek more information outside the committee on council contractors commitment to the apprenticeship scheme and the performance of boys and girls in the scheme.

12. REPORT BACK FROM THE JOINT MEETING OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE AND SPEAKERBOX (see pages 33 to 37)

The head of children looked after service introduced the report. Members asked questions.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the issues raised at the joint meeting of the corporate parenting committee and Speakerbox on 25th October and the action plan agreed as set out in appendix 1 be noted.
 2. That the next meeting between Speakerbox and the corporate parenting committee will be scheduled for week commencing the April 7 2008 be noted.
 3. That officers should develop a policy for the committee's future consideration on the support of children looked after that progress to higher education, particularly in out of term time.

13. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE – WORKPLAN 2007/8 (see page 38)

The committee considered the work plan.

RESOLVED: That the committee agreed to add the following items to the workplan:

1. Policy on the support of children looked after that progress to higher education (March 26 2008).
2. "Child Trust Fund" provisions for children looked after (March 26 2008).

The meeting closed at 5.40pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: