



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 2.00 pm at Ground Floor (G02 rooms), 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Charlie Smith (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Natasha Ennin

OFFICER SUPPORT: Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Families
Helen Woolgar, Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Care
Elaine Reid, Head of Service: Permanence and Resources
Andrew Fowler Head of Service: Children In Care and Care leavers
Dr Jenny Taylor, Head of Clinical Service
Joy Edwards, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children
Dechaun Malcolm, Children’s Rights and Participation Officer and chair of SpeakerBox (and young people)
Khalil Campbell, Fostering Service Manager and
Usha Singh, Virtual Headteacher
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer
Beverley Olamijulo, Constitutional Officer (clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall (reserve)
Dr Stacy John-Legere, looked after children doctor.

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

The chair gave notice of the following late item:

- Item 9. Brief paper on the immigration Pledge

Reasons for urgency and lateness will be specified in the relevant minutes.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None were disclosed.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the chair.

6. SPEAKER BOX UPDATE

Dechaun Malcolm, children's rights and participation officer, along with the young people and representatives of SpeakerBox provided an update to committee:

Presentation:

- Mentoring for care leavers – over 1,000 young people participated, this was a significant increase to last year
- The Care Free kitchen – young people mentioned it was memorable especially after meeting Jay Rayner (journalist /food critic) which helped them with their skills.

Positive outcome for young people

- An opportunity for young people to develop new skills
- Confidence in public speaking

Looking ahead – questions asked of the young people

- Being a representative of SpeakerBox had given them confidence
- Provided an opportunity to work along professionals

- Young people (care leavers) should have a say rather than adults deciding what happens to young people
- To rebrand the SpeakerBox website and undertake more outreach work.

7. **WORKSHOP ON CAREERS AND WELLBEING (YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE PART OF THIS)**

Matthew, Southwark Careers Advisor (18 plus) spoke about a recent careers and wellbeing event and highlighted the **three** primary objectives:

- To provide an environment where care leavers were able to interact with external organisations and peers with very few barriers
- To provide a forum where care leavers with varied abilities could interact with various organisations – tailored to meet their specific needs
- Platform Space – wonderful facility to continue to engage - with our young people with education, training and employment opportunities and help with their well-being needs.

Workshop on careers and wellbeing - Care leavers

- The entire programme was to address the some needs of our care leavers especially those from ethnic minority background and those with a disability etc.

In addition, it included the following:

- Encouraged care leavers to join the armed forces and the metropolitan police – representatives from the police were invited to speak to the young people
- The council looked at specific organisations responsible for hospitality and construction to speak to our young people
- Employment / training support with 19 external organisations
- Focus on engagement for young people with no qualifications; to assist in them gaining employment in the workplace
- “Bounce back” – work with ex-offenders and to provide support and prevent them re-offending
- Springboard hospitality – supporting the disadvantaged who wish to work into hospitality
- Tesco supermarkets, including the one located in Old Kent Road provided a Food event free of charge. Southwark Careers Service appreciated the work

they did for young people

- A restart event took place for young people on autism and a project set up on FGM (female genital mutilation)
- The team provide support to the Southwark apprenticeships and provisions for young people

Action:

The committee agreed to invite a HR representative to a meeting to present information on apprenticeships and interviews for young people.

The chair thanked the officer for his presentation.

8. UPDATE: OUTCOME OF FOCUSED VISIT ON CARE LEAVERS (BRIEF REPORT)

Khalil Campbell, Service Manager, Fostering, Children's and Adults Services presented the item and responded to questions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the Ofsted letter following the focused visit on 13 and 14 December 2023, in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.
2. That the evidence of continued improvement in the Care Leaver Service since the last inspection in September 2022 be noted.

The chair thanked the officer for his presentation.

9. BRIEF PAPER ON THE IMMIGRATION PLEDGE

The report was not circulated within five clear working days before the committee due to the legal advice that was given on signing the immigration support pledge, which could not wait until the following meeting in April 2024.

Helen Woolgar, assistant director safeguarding and care introduced the report and addressed points with regards to looked after children (LAC) and care leavers with immigration and nationality issues. The pledge includes that looked after children who were British citizens should be given assistance to obtain a British passport.

RESOLVED:

That the report contents of the immigration support pledge be noted.

10. UPDATE ON SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP - INCLUDING UPDATE ON MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Dr Jenny Taylor, Head of Clinical Service presented the item and responded to questions.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the contents of the report.

11. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

RESOLVED:

That the workplan be noted and the following included for the next meeting and meetings thereafter:

16 April 2024

- Speaker Box verbal update
- Lifelong Links Charter for employment
- Update on Southwark Homes Programme

17 July 2024

- Speaker Box verbal update and report back on actions
- Annual health report for looked after children
- Foster annual report
- Care leaver and housing protocol
- Charter for employment.

23 October 2024

- Speaker Box verbal update / annual report
- Annual independent reviewing officer report
- Adoption annual report
- Annual virtual head teacher's report.

26 February 2025

- Speaker Box verbal update

1 April 2025

- Speaker Box verbal update.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: