



Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 3 November 2014 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Carolyn Martin (Co-opted)

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care
Alisdair Smith, Head of Service, Permanence
Jane Scott, Team Manager, Specialist Children Services
Ronja Ulufot, Speakerbox Project Worker
Elaine Gunn, Principal Strategy Officer
Darren Coghlan, Head of Secondary and Further Education
Employment and Inclusion
Liz Britton, Manager, Priority Learners
Shirley Walker, Interim Service Manager
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Hills, Councillors Jasmine Ali and Evelyn Akoto.

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

It was confirmed that a verbal update would be given with regard to the report back from the Speakerbox meeting held on 28 October 2014.

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 21 July 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE AND DISTANCE PLACEMENTS

RESOLVED:

1. That the information presented in the report on children looked after missing from care in 2013/14 be noted.
2. That a report from the St. Christopher's project be received by the February 2015 corporate parenting committee. It was also requested that representative/s from the project be invited to attend the February meeting.
3. That a report on the range of foster care training available, including the foster carers experience be received.
4. That the committee receive an analysis of children out of borough who go missing and the numbers that actually return home.

7. PLACEMENT STABILITY - FACTORS AFFECTING LONG TERM STABILITY

RESOLVED:

1. That the information presented in the report on placement stability and the actions being undertaken to ensure positive outcomes are achieved for looked after children in Southwark be noted.
2. That officers report back on specific data that the committee should monitor or be aware of in order to promote placement stability.
3. That a report including two or three case studies be presented to the committee that provides examples of instability that has arisen within placements.

8. REPORT BACK FROM SPEAKERBOX

The committee received a verbal update on a meeting of the Speakerbox that took place

on 28 October 2014.

Some of the key highlights included:

- Feedback from a recent New York trip to enhance young peoples experience outside Southwark
- Projects being undertaken by young people within Speakerbox:
 - to encourage sibling contact, to create a more inviting and relaxing environment to facilitate this contact.
 - to increase activities for young people with disabilities.
- Work of the young inspectors trained to undertake inspections to look at the quality of care.

9. VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the information provided within the report be noted.
2. That the committee receive a report on the destination data for looked after children/young people.
3. That a report is also received on the following:
 - a “readiness for school” evaluation and for the report to clarify the point at which the child/young people enters care
 - the experience/practices of other local authorities in improving educational outcomes.

10. 2014/15 MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED:

1. That the information provided in the report be noted.
2. That members of the committee confirm with the director, children’s social care/cabinet member for children and schools any other specific data they wish to have included in future performance reports. Health statistics were identified as one area for inclusion in future report backs.

11. FOSTER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2013- 2014

RESOLVED:

That the information provided in the report be noted.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORKPLAN 2014-15

RESOLVED:

1. That the following two items be programmed for consideration by the committee in February 2014:
 - The effect of the recent developments in public health (transfer from NHS to council) on children in care
 - Teenage pregnancies among children in care.
2. That the report back on destinations requested under item 9 be included on the February 2015 agenda.
3. That the report listed “Transition from Care to Independent living (including availability of independent living accommodation)” be considered at February meeting. It was noted that the cabinet member for children and schools would liaise with the director, children’s social care to look at housing support and the offer made to young people.
4. That the agenda for the February 2015 meeting be reviewed by the cabinet member for children and schools.

Meeting ended at 4.45pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: