



## Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 13 July 2015 at 1.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)  
Councillor Evelyn Akoto  
Councillor Jasmine Ali  
Councillor Eliza Mann  
Councillor Kath Whittam  
Councillor Kieron Williams  
Barbara Hills (Co-opted)

**OFFICER SUPPORT:** Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care  
Jane Scott, Team Manager, Specialist Children Services  
Abdu Mohiddin, Children's and Adults Services (Public Health)  
Elaine Gunn, Children's and Adults Services  
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Florence Emakpose.

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting. Reference to Councillor Eastham being unable to attend daytime meetings. Paula Thornton to email Councillor Eastham.

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER

#### RESOLVED:

That Florence Emakpose be appointed as a non-voting co-opted member for the corporate parenting committee.

**4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT**

No urgent items were identified.

**5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

**6. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

**7. A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO PROMOTING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the information presented in the report alongside that presented in the previous report to the committee (24 February 2015) be noted.
2. That current governance arrangements to ensure representation from the new public health commissioning responsibilities, the public health specialist function and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) be noted.
3. That it be noted that the services relating to looked after children (LAC) will be audited against the best practice from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence/Social Care Institute for Excellence (NICE/SCIE). Public Health can support this in partnership with others.
4. That the cabinet member for children and schools continue to ensure that the considerable needs of LAC have a high profile in strategic commissioning by including LAC in the Children, Young Person's (CYP's) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
5. That the commissioning of services will be integrated across the life course, and needs of LAC integrated into mainstream services where appropriate be noted.
6. That it be noted that health services effectively capture the voice of children and young people.
7. That public health will work with social care and others to audit LAC services using the NICE/SCIE toolkit which will also help inform a health scorecard.
8. That a report with interim findings, including two or three areas doing well and areas not doing so well, to be presented to the committee in November 2015.

## **8. UPDATED HEALTH ACTION PLAN FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the updated action plan and the key issues for consideration in delivering the action plan to improve health outcomes for looked after children and care leavers be noted.
2. That an audit is undertaken in social care to consider what has caused delay in completing health assessments if parents are giving their consent (point 9 on action plan “prompt health assessments for newly looked after children and young people”).
3. That the committee receive an update with regard to the appointment to the designated doctor post to the November 2015 meeting.

## **9. HEALTH PROVISION FOR CARE LEAVERS**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the information presented in the report on health services and the actions being taking to ensure positive outcomes are achieved for care leavers in Southwark be noted.
2. To look into the following ideas proposed by the committee:
  - To consider developing a model similar to the one used for ‘young inspectors for accommodation’ for health
  - To gather the views of care leavers, particularly those aged 21 and over (use of social media to engage young people and get their views).

## **10. IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the information provided in the report in relation to educational needs of looked after children in Southwark be noted.
2. That it be noted that the school standards report is due to be presented to cabinet in October 2015 and Councillor Victoria Mills to raise with the council’s director of education and the head teacher for the virtual school to ensure that the data for looked after children is captured within this report.

## **11. ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MISSING CHILDREN SERVICE: UPDATE REPORT**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the information presented in the report from St Christopher's Missing Children Service which provides independent return interviews to looked after children who go missing from home and care be noted.
2. That the intention to hold a session for all councillors in autumn 2015 on children missing from care; feedback from which will form the basis of a report to cabinet and corporate parenting committee be noted.
3. That as part of this session the committee requested:
  - that officers substantiate the data if children are known to be located or if not (for example may have returned to family)
  - to provide an analysis if child returning to same place or somewhere different
  - signpost excellent work being undertaken on child sexual exploitation
  - a desire for councillors to understand the information behind the figures at this session.

## **12. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2015/16**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the work plan 2015/16 as set out in paragraph 3 of the report be noted.
2. That the draft agenda for committee in November 2015 be agreed as follows:
  - Annual report on fostering services
  - Annual report on adoption services
  - Feedback from autumn session on children going missing from care
  - Update on looked after children strategy (following presentation to 13 July meeting)
  - Audit of commissioning arrangements (as discussed under item 7)
  - Update on designated doctor appointment
  - Care leavers and transition to adulthood (Paula Thornton to email the committee to establish what committee members would like included in this report)
  - Update on take-up of free swim and gym.
3. That the annual report from the virtual head teacher to be considered by committee in February 2016 when examination data known.
4. The committee suggested a health theme for the Speakerbox meeting in October 2015.

### 13. PRESENTATION: LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY

#### RESOLVED:

1. That the presentation be received and the following comments made by committee be incorporated and considered as part of the strategy:
  - Strategic priorities – 9. All young people leave care when they are ready and the ideal for life after care
  - Add young people have had a say and their voice has been heard
  - Add to strategic priorities that foster and adoptive carers should feel well supported
  - Implications of benefit and welfare changes for young people captured
  - Include more health related success measures
  - Add resilience for care leavers and narrowing gap between looked after children and other children
  - Under strategic priorities, add under point 1 words to the effect that where neglect or safeguarding issues child or young person will be removed without hesitation
  - Set out joint working with other areas (for example, housing, education and health) to reinforce the continued need for this to happen
  - Practical participation with social media
  - Relationships – young people have relationships they feel positive about
  - Reducing crisis points (exclusion, visits to accident and emergency etc)
  - Reference to disability issues in strategy
  - Success, point 10 – change ‘more’ to ‘all’
  - “What children and young people tell us is important to them” middle box, conversation around where young people and children feel are not getting support/help
  - Statement young person feel secure in housing
  - Looked after children – all services shaped for this group
  - Request that strategy to go to cabinet, Speakerbox and corporate parenting committee
  - Updated version of the strategy to be emailed to committee when complete.
2. All further comments on the strategy to be emailed to [elaine.gunn@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.gunn@southwark.gov.uk)

The meeting ended at 4.15pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**