

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2012**

Councillors Allison, Brabazon, Reece, Reith (Chair) and Watson

Apologies Councillor Solomon

Also Present: Debbie Haith, Wendy Tomlinson, Atracta Craig, Rachel Oakley, Shanti Jacob

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>	<b>ACTON BY</b>
CPAC 148	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Solomon.</p>	
CPAC 149	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business put forward.</p>	
CPAC 150	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest put forward.</p>	
CPAC 151	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the 31 January were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
CPAC 152	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Fostercare Consortium were currently discussing the recruitment of specialist foster carers. This would include specialist carers that were able to care for young people on remand and deal with behavioural issues. There were ongoing discussions with the YOS team about training potential specialist foster carers.</p> <p>In light of changes to the youth justice bill, the Chair had recommended that the committee consider a report, at their next meeting in June, about the support to LAC when they are in custody. It was further agreed to invite Linda James (Youth Offending Service manager) to attend. The committee agreed that the report include the number of LAC in custody, a background of their route into care, and explain what the council will be responsible for (following changes to the bill).</p> <p>An update was provided on safeguarding the access of children and</p>	<p><b>Head of YOS</b></p>

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	<p>young people, in the care of the local authority, to social networking sites. The committee noted that there was guidance available to foster carers and residential homes on being aware of the safeguarding issues around vulnerable children and young people's access to social networking sites. The Safeguarding Board were also completing further work in this area. Historically the council had provided ICT access to carers through contracted services but this had been costly and currently, as part of the registration process, new foster carers would need to provide their own access to ICT.</p> <p><b>Completion of PEPs</b> - Since this action was agreed by Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, training programmes had been provided by the council on the completion of PEPs (Personal Education Plans) for looked after children. Schools were now confident enough to deliver this programme themselves with the support of Social Workers.</p> <p>While discussing the type of training provided by the council to teachers, it was agreed that Attracta Craig provide Councillor Brabazon with the contact details of Kate Cairns, a leading professional who has trained teachers in how to support vulnerable children experiencing trauma.</p> <p>Cllr Allison and Wendy Tomlinson agreed to speak after the meeting to resolve the outstanding issue on the difference in figures for the number of people making foster care enquiries and attending information sessions.</p> <p>Following debate on the use of the pupil premium grant and the need to ensure that the required element of the funding was being used to support LAC, Cllr Reith agreed to write to all schools seeking an understanding about how they were spending the pupil premium grant in relation to LAC. It was further agreed that Attracta Craig make contact with the school governing body team to discuss what can be incorporated into the Safeguarding Governor's job description to provide more responsibility for monitoring how the LAC children element of the Pupil Premium grant is being spent. Alternatively advice could be sought on whether this monitoring role can be taken forward by the designated teacher for LAC at relevant schools.</p>	<p><b>AC</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p><b>AC</b></p>
<p><b>CPAC 153</b></p>	<p><b>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</b></p> <p><b>OP200 - Cost of Service per looked after child</b> - Agreed that more detailed information on how the service were managing this cost be added to the forthcoming report to be considered by the committee in June.</p> <p><b>OP409 - Foster carer recruitment</b> - Committee requested that the number of kinship carers recruited be separated out to provide an idea of how many stranger foster carers (people without a connection to the child/ young person) were being recruited over the year. Agreed that any positive news on the efforts to recruit foster carers should be added.</p>	<p><b>DH</b></p> <p><b>DH</b></p>

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<p><b>OP414 – Percentage of Children becoming looked after previously subject to a Child Protection Plan</b> - There would be an audit in relation to this area in April which would try and uncover the main routes of children into care and look further at the reasons for children, on a care plan, coming into care. Agreed that information on the audit findings be added to the commentary.</p>	<p><b>DH</b></p>
<p><b>OP414 percentage of children becoming looked after previously subject to CP plan</b> – Agreed that further clarification be provided in the minutes on the value attached to this indicator and the total that it is applicable to.</p>	<p><b>DH</b></p>
<p><b>OP389 – Children in care including unaccompanied minors.</b> The Chair requested a report to the next meeting on the efforts by the service to take children out of care. Previously the Committee had learned about the options being taken forward such as adoption, supervision care, LAC allowed to go home (whilst remaining on care orders) and the committee wanted reassurance that this work was having an impact on the number leaving care. The report should not include children who were turning 18.</p>	<p><b>DH/CC</b></p>
<p>A committee member recalled that, in a previous report to committee, 80 children were identified by the service as being in care too long and it was requested that the above report include information on their progress. Also this report should also include a further update on the number of children currently deemed to be too long in care. It was further agreed that issues impacting on how quickly a child could leave care such as delays as a result of court proceeding should also be included to provide an understanding of the timescales.</p>	<p><b>DH/CC</b></p>
<p><b>OP386 Children in care cases reviewed on time</b> – All cases had been reviewed but as some were not done within the set time limit, the target could not be calculated as being met. The delay in completing the visits and reviewing cases had been due to vacancies in the IRO team. These posts were in the process of being filled and performance should improve for this indicator.</p>	
<p>There was a consensus that there should be exception reports, on the performance figures that had a red status, explaining the activities to address this performance rating.</p>	<p><b>DH</b></p>
<p>Agreed, overall, that there should be increased commentary attached to the performance figures and an indication of the status by adding R, A or G to the report as they were printed in black and white.</p>	<p><b>DH</b></p>
<p><b>OP148 – care leaver in education employment or training</b> - Further investigation of these figures by the Head of Children in Care indicated that some figures had been incorrectly input. This information would be updated and performance figure updated and supplied to the committee.</p>	<p><b>CC</b></p>

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<p><b>CPAC 154</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION ON THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK</b></p> <p>The committee received a presentation about the quality assurance activity in the Children and Young People’s service. The service was currently reviewing all their 40 quality assurance activities to understand their reason, use, type, value and intended outcome. This information would be assessed against the principles of quality assurance to understand how much they were being met. The review would aim to instigate change, support development ensure that the chosen strategies of quality assurance could be maintained</p> <p>Further to considering the presentation the chair advised that Member’s enquiries should be also is included as a source for indicating the quality of service provided.</p> <p>Following questions from members the following information was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging users about the service received, was a key part of quality assurance and the review would be mapping out areas of good practice ,currently in use, that could be shared and used as a whole by the service.</li> <li>• Introduction of Viewpoint, an online questionnaire for children and young people, to communicate their views about any topic and for services to consider them.</li> <li>• Developing teams in children services to think about the reason why they are collating information and what it will be used for i.e. making information count.</li> <li>• Information is moved around stakeholders and there would need to be more responsibility given to them for making changes when required.</li> <li>• In future there will need to be a higher understanding provided of the requirements of data with managers able to explain to officers how they contribute to compiling the fuller picture the service needs to go forward. For example how the data will be the evidence behind, decisions, compilation of strategies and policies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RO</b></p>
<p><b>CPAC 155</b></p>	<p><b>INDEPENDENT REVIEW OFFICER SECOND CHECKLIST AUDIT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2011</b></p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During October to December 2011, the Independent Review Officers had repeated an audit undertaken in the first quarter of 2011-12 using a basic checklist to carry out a random sample analysis of looked after children reviews. The audit was designed as a quick process that could provide some immediate data, identify trends and areas for further investigation. This report contained a feedback on how the areas identified for improvement, from the previous audits had been taken forward and contained information from the most recent audit of LAC reviews. Actions progressed included:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discussion of issues at the LAC multi agency meeting,</li> <li>• meetings between Social Workers and IRO officers to improve understanding of IRO role,</li> <li>• Introduction of Children in care workflow (integrated system of working which brings together required information about a LAC case to facilitate required IRO decisions being made within timescale).</li> <li>• Use of court care plan,</li> <li>• Re-launch of VIEWPOINT, Children and young people will be directed to use this to share their views about their care (younger children will be assisted by social workers to use this online questionnaire).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Analysis from the recent audit showed that there were care plans available but they required updating. There was an awareness exercise to be undertaken to re-iterate the importance of this document as a planning tool and the committee were assured that the results in this area would further improve in the next audit.</p> <p>A shorter template would be issued to Social Workers to enable them to complete a court care plan more speedily.</p> <p>The Children's service were launching Viewpoint and would be strongly advocating its use at reviews as it would enable children/young people to participate in decisions being made about their care.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the report be noted</p>	
<p><b>CPAC 156</b></p>	<p><b>ADOPTION UPDATE</b></p> <p>The committee received a verbal update from the Deputy Director for Children and Families about Adoption and the new action plan from government to speed up and instigate more use of the adoption process. The government currently used data to rank boroughs performance in the speed and number of adoptions being made. In 2011 Haringey was ranked 123 out of 152 boroughs with an average of 63% of adoptions being made within 12 months of the decision to adopt over the previous 3 years. The committee noted that this figure had already improved and the council were currently performing at 75% against the national</p>	

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	<p>average of 74%.</p> <p>The committee were informed that there would be an introduction of performance thresholds, set to monitor the overall time of the journey through the adoption process.</p> <p>All local authorities would be receiving a performance scorecard to help profile and track progress. The committee were provided with an example of its likely content and would be provided with the final version of the score card when issued by government.</p> <p>The Chair commented on the need for the service to monitor any counter effects of the government's action plan such as: a lower number of children being placed in the adoption process because a placement may not be found within the set thresholds or if there is an increase in placement breakdowns through the process being made shorter. Officers agreed that it would be important to prioritise considering all the adoption case specifics rather than meeting targets.</p> <p>The committee noted that the court will in future ratify the care plans rather than the adoption review panel. It was felt that the Adoption panel should continue these quality assurance measures with updates on cases being considered at their meetings so that they can continue to provide independent analysis on cases going forward.</p> <p>The committee continued to consider information on the number of children and their age range currently progressing through the adoption process. It was noted that once the family was identified that the local authority would need to await the court placement order before placing the child with the family. The family would then need to place the adoption order.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the adoption update and sample scorecard be emailed to all committee members after the meeting.</p>	<p><b>DH</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>CPAC 157</b></p>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>The press and public were excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following as it contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paras 1 &amp; 2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>	
<p><b>CPAC 158</b></p>	<p><b>REGULATION 33 VISITS</b></p> <p>The report discussed the recommendations arising from the regulation 33 visits made in January and February 2012 to the two council run</p>	

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	<p>children's homes.</p> <p>Members asked about how plans were progressing to relocate the remaining 8 young people residing in the children's homes following expected closure in July. The committee noted that there were plans to move the young people to either foster care placements or semi independent living accommodation in the coming three weeks. The committee requested that a written update be provided on their situation, as part of the matters arising report, to be considered in the exempt part of the agenda at the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>WT</b></p>
<p><b>CPAC 159</b></p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>It was agreed that all tabled papers received at the meeting be circulated to members. The agenda plan of items for Corporate Parenting Committee in 2012/13 was attached to the matters arising report for members to comment on and return any suggested changes to the clerk.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b> <b>All to note</b></p>

Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair