

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2013**

<p>keeping the property clean and in a suitable condition for young people living there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent, continued support from a personal adviser to the young person living in shared or semi independent accommodation. <p>Officers asked Committee Members to keep in mind that there were young people that chose to live in semi independent accommodation as they did not want to remain in foster care . So, there was a need to provide these young people with accommodation, as placing the young person in a residential care home was also not acceptable.</p> <p>Members raised concerns about the quality of the accommodation being procured and there was a need to ensure checks were carried out before the properties were agreed. Aspire had offered to complete visits to the properties to provide an idea, to the council, of the quality of accommodation and this offer should be taken up.</p> <p>Members noted that properties provided to 16-18 years olds were not regulated, centrally, by government and therefore the responsibility lay with the local authority and ultimately social workers and contract officers to determine their standards. Some councillors shared their own personal experiences of dealing with young people who have been living in shared and semi independent accommodation and felt there was a duty of care to the young people to ensure that the accommodation they were being given met certain standards. The interim Director for Children’s services mentioned the Adults safeguarding protocol which could be examined to understand if any elements can be applied to safeguarding young people in care.</p> <p>The Chair felt that the quality of accommodation for care leavers was a national issue as well as a local one. Councils were funding accommodation for young people and seemed to have little choice in the quality of the provision due to the demand for places. However, landlords needed some standards to follow to ensure that the living conditions were appropriate, especially for younger care leavers going into accommodation from the ages of 16-17. There was a significant gap in the regulation of these properties and this was an issue which should raised by local MP’s and taken up with government ministers in the DFE.</p> <p>The Committee agreed with the Interim Director’s suggestion to consider the Adults safeguarding protocol, at the next meeting. This would help the Committee provide an input into which elements of the protocol that can be applied to further take forward the council’s responsibility for the standard of accommodation for young people in care and care leavers.</p> <p>The Committee established that there are 55 [16-17] year olds[10% of the total number of LAC in the borough] not living with a family ,in separate accommodation, and they felt it would be important to look at this group separately . Agreed that a report is compiled which is focused on this group of young people and sets out the council’s support to them</p>	<p>Paul McCarthy</p> <p>Interim Dir CS/Chris Chalmers/ Adults services</p>
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	and how this compares to other local authorities, working with a similar cohort.	Chris Chalmers
TEX277.	<p>BRIEF UPDATE REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WELFARE REFORMS ON SPECIAL GUARDIANS AND FOSTER CARERS</p> <p>The Committee wanted to ensure that foster carers, special guardians were not adversely affected by the reforms and were able to continue looking after the children placed in their care. The report indicated that, to date, the reforms have only had a minor impact on Haringey's Foster carers and Special Guardians.</p>	
TEX278.	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</p> <p>The report set out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children for the period ending in October.</p> <p>Committee Members asked for the following information to be included in the report to Committee in March:</p> <p>IRO reviews - It would be important for Members to understand how many children/ young people were present at these meetings and the efforts being made to seek the child's / young person's participation. The Assistant Director agreed that this information was extractable and could be added to the next report.</p> <p>In terms, of the young people that were coming into the care of the council following a court decision to place them on remand, there was a need for the committee to be aware of the offers being made to the judiciary beforehand i.e. seeking bail .</p> <p>Agreed that the forthcoming report, from the court manager, include information on how the council is being proactive in its permanency planning before issuing care proceedings and also contain comments on how the council is working to reduce the number of children that need to become subject to care proceedings.</p>	<p>Chris Chalmers/ Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Chris Chalmers/ Margaret Gallagher</p> <p>Eileen Flavin/ Chris Chalmers</p>
TEX279.	<p>REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE APRIL - OCTOBER 2013</p> <p>Committee Members received a 6 monthly update on the key area of progress and achievement for safeguarding and social care elements of the children and Young People's service.</p> <p>They considered the recent downward trend in the number of children subject to a child protection plan, the performance for completing assessments and visits and suggested officers look at this information as a whole, together with the age breakdown of children, to understand if there are any areas for concern.</p> <p>Suggested that the Children's service budget could be a further item for consideration in March Committee meeting. This would help the Committee understand the focus and spend of the service for the</p>	<p>Interim Dir CS</p> <p>Interim Dir CS</p>

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	<p>coming financial year.</p> <p>Members noted the imminent departure of Marion Wheeler, the Assistant Director for the Children's service . The Committee placed on record their thanks and appreciation to Marion for all her hard work for the children's service, over the last 5 years.</p> <p>The Committee placed on record their thanks and congratulations to the Virtual school team for the excellent number of looked after children in higher education.</p>	
TEX280.	CORPORATE PARENTING QUESTIONS FOR COUNCILLORS	
	Noted.	
TEX281.	NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
	Noted.	
TEX282.	EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	
TEX283.	EXEMPT BUSINESS	
	Noted.	
TEX284.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	<p>The next meeting was due to take place on the 6th March at 6.30pm. This meeting would be followed by a joint meeting with the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee on the same night at 7.30pm.</p>	

Cllr Zena Brabazon

Chair