

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2014**

Councillors Allison, Brabazon, Reece, Solomon, Stennett and Waters (Chair)

Apologies Lisa Redfern

Also Present: Tracy Hutchings, Chris Chalmers, Paul McCarthy

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
TEX285.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Lisa Redfern.</p>	
TEX286.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
TEX287.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest put forward.</p>	
TEX288.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th December were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	Clerk
TEX289.	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>An information report on the use of the looked after children element of the Pupil Premium Grant had been distributed to Committee Members, prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Adults Safeguarding protocol had been distributed to Committee Members in early February for consideration. Comments had been sought on what aspects of the protocol could be applied in the council's responsibility for the standard of accommodation for young people in care and care leavers.</p> <p>The Chair advised the Committee that the usual performance report with information on the progress of key performance indicators for looked after children and care leavers had not been available for consideration at this meeting as the process for gathering data, in Children's Service, had changed from a monthly exercise to a weekly event. The next performance report to the committee in June, would have added lines of enquiry concerning staffing and resources of the service. However there would be a brief performance report with some key headlines included in a report to the joint meeting at 7.30pm concerning children missing from care and stability of placements.</p>	
TEX290.	<p>ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE HEAD OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL</p>	

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	<p>The Virtual Head's Annual Report was the final update of the Interim Virtual Head report presented to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee in October. The report provided information on the education of children who are looked after by Haringey Local Authority in regards to attainment, attendance and exclusions.</p> <p>Since the publication of this report last week, the DfE had published the attainment of looked after children in England and Haringey looked after children have again achieved above the national average in most areas, with Haringey rated in the top 15 local authorities in 6 out of the 7 attainment criteria.</p> <p>Haringey children in care have also reduced the gap between their attainment and all children in Haringey this year.</p> <p>The Committee considered the data in relation to achievements of children in care at early years foundation level, Key stage 1, Key stage 2, year 6, post 16 and further acknowledged the range of practices and processes being used by the Virtual school to support and facilitate successful outcomes for children in care and care leavers.</p> <p>In responses to questions from the Committee the following information was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of GCSE results, including attainment of Maths and English, Haringey were third in the country. • Key stage 2 results were above the national average. • The attainment at key stage one also depended on the needs of the cohort. In this current cohort there were 5 children with SEN, in the previous year there had been none. • Noted that the data collected by the Virtual School was from a September to September basis and this was different to the time period of national data collection. Agreed that the collection and presentation of data by the Virtual school be synchronised to be compatible with national data period collation to enable easier comparisons to be made. • Agreed that the early year's data, at page 15 of the agenda pack, is updated. <p>The Chair and Committee thanked the Virtual School for their significant work and achievements for looked after children and care leavers. Their continued emphasis on finding activities, specialised support, and good projects for children and young people in care to participate in; reflected their commitment to helping them achieve good academic results and maintaining a high level of aspiration for their future.</p>	TH
<p>TEX291.</p>	<p>UPDATE ON THE WORK TO RECRUIT AN EXTERNAL PROVIDER TO RECRUIT AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INTERNAL FOSTER CARERS, ALONG WITH INFORMATION FOR NOTING ABOUT THE LAC</p>	

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SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY

The Committee considered the progress on recruiting an external provider to recruit and increase the number of internal foster carers in the borough and also received information about the work on the council's operational sufficiency strategy.

The following was noted.

- A contract with NRS Limited was in the process of being finalised and they should begin work on recruiting foster carers in the borough in early April. They had a high target of recruiting 45 carers by March 2015 in order to cover the number of foster carers retiring and increasing the existing cohort of local foster carers. The payment to NRS would be on a results basis
- There were already 18 prospective foster carers, in the process, of being recruited by the council and they would be transfer to NRS Limited.
- Existing staff working on foster care recruitment would be transferred to work with supporting and developing existing foster carers in the borough. There will be an improved set of quality standards put in place for how the council looks after foster carers

In response to Committee comments and questions, the following was noted:

- Positive changes that will contribute to stability of young people in placements were the implementation of the 'staying put policy'.
- There will be a proactive approach to foster care recruitment, including: tapping into existing networks associated with Children's services for potential carers, holding weekend and evening foster care events, and increasing the reach to all areas of Tottenham .
- Assurance was given that, following the recruitment of an external provider to recruit foster carers; there would not be a reduction in frontline staff dealing with foster care.
- There was discussion about cost of the contract including the separate cost of the work with iMPower on the fostering review, and assurance provided that the contract will save the council money in terms of the cost of the foster carers assessment and the cost of marketing which the Committee noted was a set reasonable amount.
- Assurance was given that the retention rate for Haringey Foster carers was good and there was commitment seen from existing foster carers of wanting to continue to work in the borough and not being attracted to private fostering agencies or working with other boroughs for a higher rate.

The Committee thanked Paul McCarthy for his continued work in helping to improve fostering services and noted that he would be staying on for a further year to manage the first year of the contract with NRS Limited.

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Rachel Allison for her continued commitment to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee over the last 5 years.

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TEX292.	<p>CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUDGET 2013/14 AND 2014/15</p> <p>The Committee considered an update on the Children's Services budget for 2013/14(including progress on making saving) and noted the update on Financial Planning for 2014/15. The savings for 2015/16 linked to the Haringey 54000 programme and involved the shift in spend on high end services to prevention and early years.</p> <p>Following questions from councillors it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children's Service would need to make £4.7m in savings in 2014/15 • The funding for IMPOWER, the strategic partner of the Children's service, was funded from the council's transformation reserves. • The increase cost of accommodating homeless families had risen this year as well as the cost of supporting families with no recourse to public funds. The Director for Children's Services (Acting) and Interim Assistant Director for Children's Services would hold meetings with Housing to work out how both services will work together with these families to provide a sustainable solution. • The £150k savings connected to the review of the Early Years service would be met by reducing staffing costs and not through closure of children's centres. 	
TEX293.	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>No new items of urgent business</p>	
TEX294.	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>Not required</p>	
TEX295.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>None</p>	
TEX296.	<p>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>None</p>	

Cllr Ann Waters

Chair