

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, 20th March, 2018, 7.45 pm or on the rise of the informal meeting with Aspire - Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, N22 8LE**

**Members:** Councillors Patrick Berryman, Bob Hare, Liz Morris, Felicia Opoku, Sheila Peacock, Anne Stennett and Elin Weston (Chair)

Quorum: 3

### **1. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The Chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual, or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)**

### **3. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair will consider the admission of late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 11 below.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the

existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the consideration becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member' judgement of the public interest.

**5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 4)**

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**6. ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE**

**7. PERFORMANCE AND LAC ISSUES**

To provide an update to the Committee on current performance levels, LAC numbers, a reduction in placements and the statistical profile of care leavers.

Report to Follow.

**8. SIGNS OF SAFETY PRESENTATION (PAGES 5 - 12)**

To update the Committee on the Council's child protection framework.

**9. ASPIRE PLEDGE (PAGES 13 - 16)**

To consider any updates to the Aspire pledge for 2018/19.

**10. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items admitted at item 2 above.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Philip Slawther, Principal Committee Co-ordinator  
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Bernie Ryan  
Assistant Director – Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer  
River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8HQ

Monday, 12 March 2018

**MINUTES OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2018**

Councillors Cllr Weston [Chair], Cllr Berryman, Cllr Stennett & Cllr Opoku

Apologies Cllr Morris, Cllr Hare & Cllr Peacock.

Also attending Margaret Dennison (Interim Director of Children's Services) Sarah Alexander (Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Social Care), Jo Moses (Interim Head of Children in Care & Placements), Fiona Smith (Virtual School Head), Annie Walker (Deputy Head of Service - Children in Care & Placements), Anneke Fraser & Philip Slawther (Clerk).

**CPAC337. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Morris, Cllr Hare and Cllr Peacock.

**CPAC338. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE**

NOTED: The actions listed in the notes of the meeting with Aspire.

- Committee requested to support the release of the Aspire pledges and launch event.
- Future location of Aspire meetings to be considered.

**CPAC339. URGENT BUSINESS**

NONE

**CPAC340. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NONE

**CPAC341. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October were AGREED.

The Chair agreed that she would speak to the AD Safeguarding and Social Care outside of the meeting around the disparity in the cut-off age for the local housing cap. **(Action: Chair/Sarah Alexander).**

An update on the new Ofsted inspection regime to be brought to the next committee meeting. **(Action: Margaret Dennison/Clerk).**

The Chair requested that a brief update be provided to the next meeting which focused on the reasons behind a reduction in the number of children ceasing to be looked after and the trend of an increasing number of placement moves. **(Action: Margaret Gallagher/Clerk).**

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The Chair requested fostering information be circulated to the Committee in relation to UASC. **(Action: Sarah Alexander)**.

The Chair requested that a report be circulated updating the Committee on Safeguarding and semi-independent living providers. **(Action: Sarah Alexander)**.

**CPAC342. MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee NOTED the Corporate Parenting Agenda Plan 2017/18.

**CPAC343. PERFORMANCE AND ADOPTION SCORE CARD.**

RECEIVED a report from the Director of Children's Services setting out the performance data and trends relating to looked after children. Report included in the agenda pack (pages 11 to 20).

NOTED in response to the discussion:

- Performance against the number of LAC with up-to-date dental visits was improving and had achieved 80%.
- In response to a query around the age of the adoption group, officers advised that the children tended to be under the age of five and that most were babies.
- In response to a query around an increase in the number of UASC, officers advised that LBH had received a larger proportion than a number of other boroughs and had taken more than their allotted allocation. Officers confirmed that the Council assisted with the immigration status of UASC.
- In response to a question, the Committee was advised that there was no target for SGO's and that numbers varied, partly as their nature tended to be circumstantial. The Chair advised that she would be very reluctant to set targets on this.
- The Committee commented that performance levels overall were very positive.

AGREED to note the report.

**CPAC343. LEVEL 3 AND ACCESS COURSE FOR CARE LEAVERS AND  
BENEFIT IMPLICATIONS**

RECEIVED a report presented by the AD Safeguarding and Social Care, Sarah Alexander, which set out the mechanisms in place to support care leavers who wished to remain in education or training.

NOTED in response to the discussion:

- There were a number of care leavers who returned to the service for support after the age of 21, which placed further financial pressures on the YAS to fund subsistence living costs and cover rent costs in order to support them in completing their courses.

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- The Committee agreed that the information contained in the report would be used to help draft a letter to the Minister, emphasising that the gap in benefits for care leavers is making provision of adequate support difficult. **(Action: Sarah Alexander)**.

**CPAC344. INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

RECEIVED a presentation from the Director of Children's Services, which had been previously given at an external event by Ofsted, setting out the inspection regime for local authority children's services.

NOTED in response to the discussion:

- The new ILACS system has replaced the previous single inspection regime. In 2014 CS received an Ofsted rating of requiring improvement. It was anticipated that the next inspection would likely take place in the autumn.
- The Committee noted that the new regime involved self-evaluation and that it adopted more of a 'maintenance' model designed to prevent local authorities from falling over.
- The Committee requested more information on social workers, including caseloads, turnover levels and recruitment issues. The Chair requested that an overview paper be prepared for the next CPAC meeting but cautioned that the Committee's role was focused on Children in Care. **(Action: Margaret Dennison)**.
- The Committee agreed that a report be brought to the next meeting which presents the statistical profile for care leavers, includes the signs of safety briefing and incorporates the JTAI. **(Action: Sarah Alexander)**.

**CPAC348. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**CPAC350. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that the NRS audit might not be ready for the next meeting.

Future meetings

NOTED the following provisional dates:

20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**MINUTES OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2018**

Meetings are scheduled to start at 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 19:45 hours.

**Cllr Elin Weston  
Chair**

# Signs of Safety

Assistant Director, Children's Social Care  
Sarah Alexander

# What is Signs of Safety?

A framework for how we do child protection work – from the principles of practice; the disciplines for practitioners' approach to the direct tools for assessment and planning and in the ways we engage with families, children, partners and the wider community.



# Discipline

1. Clear distinction between past harm, future danger and complicating factors
2. Clear distinction between strengths and protections
3. Plain language
4. Statements focusing on specific observable behaviours, actions and inactions
5. Skillful use of authority
6. Assessment is always a work in progress

# Tools

- Assessment and planning
  - Three columns
  - Scaling questions
- Engaging children – Three houses
- Words and pictures explanations

# Process

- Mapping the assessment and plan – paying as much attention to strengths as weaknesses
- Narrowing down the key factors to clear statements of past harm and future danger
- Making a judgment about how safe children are
- Building a safety plan that addresses the danger statements, drawing on a safety network of extended family, friends and professionals
- Engaging the children & young people
- To do all of this in a timely way so worries can be spotted

# What is the impact on the child we are looking for?

- We need to spot worries early to respond effectively.
- We are looking for behaviours that may impact on an adults ability to parent and
- Parental substance misuse
- Mental Health Issues
- Domestic abuse
- For children signs such as
- Missed appointments
- Not meeting milestones
- Mental health issues

- SoS can be applied in any situation
- Helpful when foster carers are managing difficult behaviour
- Can be used in the court arena to determine what children want
- Accepted practice model by Ofsted
- Has a sound basis in theory and evaluation
- Practice model that is easily recognisable

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Corporate Parenting Pledge**We, the Council as Corporate Parent, pledge:****Staying Safe**

- We will make sure that your social worker visits you once during the first week of your placement and then at least every 6 weeks after.
- We will only change your social worker if absolutely necessary and informing you of these changes and outlining the reasons why it has happened will be a priority.
- We will raise awareness of issues that place children and young people at risk so they can make choices about how to keep themselves safe.
- If we feel that you are not safe, we will speak to you and make appropriate decisions for your safety and wellbeing.
- We will try our best to place you as close to your family as possible if that is what you want and it is in your best interests.
- We will place you in a welcoming home.

**Inclusion & Your Identity**

- We will make sure that you are able to request to 'Stay Put' with your existing foster carers, if you wish, up to the age of 21 and we will try our best to make that happen.
- We will make sure you are up to date about local activities for children and young people.
- We will help you to get a passport, NI number and all other forms of identification when you are legally allowed obtain them.
- We will give you the opportunity to learn about your culture.
- We will support you in identifying/expressing all elements of your identity.
- We will help you understand your journey through care.

**Health & Well Being**

- We will make sure that you receive a health assessment once a year (Under 5's will be assessed every six months) and support you in accessing all health services that you need.
- We will help you understand your own health needs, physical, mental and emotional.

- We will help you access leisure and sports activities, school holiday activities and weekend activities and trips.
- We will ensure that you receive regular dentist appointments.
- We will encourage you to access age-appropriate help with your mental and emotional wellbeing, including CAMHS/mental health services and/or counselling.

## **Wishes and Feelings**

- We will ensure that your voice is listened to at all stages of your time in care and leaving care, including through our Children in Care council.
- We will ensure that your social worker operates in a child centred way, puts your needs first, and listens to your wishes and feelings.
- We will celebrate your achievements and provide opportunities for you to share those achievements with others.
- We will manage your leaving care transition sensitively, ensuring your social worker and personal advisor work closely together.
- We will make sure there are various channels in which you can communicate your thoughts and feelings; this could be through your social worker/ personal advisor (PA), through consultations/questionnaires, an advocate or Aspire. We will make sure you can meet with your Independent Reviewing Officer before your review to share your thoughts and feelings.

## **Education**

- We will provide support from Haringey Virtual School so that you can achieve the best results overall, including access to equipment and resources that are essential to your success.
- We will ensure that you have access to advice and guidance in order to help you plan your future career.
- We will support you post-16 into further education, university, training or employment.
- We will make sure that you have accommodation available during holidays if you decide to go to university outside London.
- We will always try to help you to go to good/outstanding schools where you live.

## **Rights & Entitlement for Children in Care & Care Leavers**

- We will explain what it means to be in care and what to expect throughout your time in care. When you leave care, we will help you understand how to look after yourself. Your social



worker should explain what a pathway / care plan / PPG / PEP meeting is and revisit regularly, checking your understanding.

- We will make clear to you your rights and entitlements, and your social worker or PA will help you to understand what is available at each stage.
- We will help you become more independent and empower you to learn skills that will help you in future, for instance workshops on housing and money management.
- We will work with you to find suitable/safe accommodation and help you to maintain your tenancy when you leave care.

## **Complaints Procedure**

- We will provide or let you nominate someone neutral to speak to about any concerns you have and ensure you have the information you need to contact them.
- If you are not happy with your social worker / PA, you or an adult you trust will be able to contact their manager easily and arrange a meeting with them if you want.
- The manager will get back to you within 2 working days and give a time frame for responding to the issues you have raised.

With thanks to Aspire



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