

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 2 JULY 2009**

Councillors Allison, Engert, B. Harris, Patel and Reith (Chair)

Apologies Councillor Adamou and Alexander

Also Present: Roy Choudhury, Attracta Craig, Denise Gandy, Roger Smith.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC24	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Adamou, Alexander and C. Harris (Cllr Patel substituted).</p>	
CPAC25	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	
CPAC26	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None.</p>	
CPAC27	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 2 June 2009 as an accurate record.</p> <p>Confirmation was provided that a member training session had been scheduled for 29 July at 6.30pm, Civic Centre, to screen the <i>Care Stories</i> training video.</p> <p>The Committee requested that progress in relation to the drafting of the proposed leaflet for CiC (Children in Care) setting out the role of the council as a corporate parent be followed up.</p>	<p>Head Service (Res & Plcmts)</p>
CPAC28	<p>LEAVING CARE</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation providing an overview of the Leaving Care and Asylum service from the Head of Service, covering areas including relevant legislation, entitlements of young people leaving care and the staffing structure of the service.</p> <p>The Committee were advised that the involvement of young people with the care leaver's service was on a voluntary basis and as such often challenging. In addition, the non-mandatory nature of engagement generally precluded the establishment of formal performance indicators. The Committee discussed the importance of introducing performance monitoring systems to allow the evaluation of service outcomes under</p>	

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	<p>the remit of the Committee in relation to monitoring the corporate parenting arrangements of the authority. Officers from the service present recognised the value in developing some form of performance monitoring for the Service and proposed useful measures including reporting Level 3 qualification results and the sustainability of tenancies of care leavers. It was noted that a more individualised approach would need to be adopted to develop effectual performance monitoring, for example assessing the progress of individuals against pathway plans etc. The value of benchmarking performance monitoring approaches with other authorities was recognised, as well as the potential for joint commissioning of research to allow pan-London comparison of outcomes for care leavers to be made. Officers agreed to raise these issues at the next Leaving Care Leader's Forum.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Committee receive a report to the September meeting setting out proposals for establishing a series of suitable performance monitoring indicators for the service as a pilot exercise, including any resource implications. <p>In response to a query regarding the status of placements for care leavers after the age of 18, confirmation was provided that young people could remain in foster care up the age of 18, with post 18 foster placement funding continued to the end of that academic year. The individual is then transferred to 'supported lodging' status.</p> <p>The Committee raised concerns regarding the quality of semi independent housing arrangements in the borough, an issue that had been raised at previous meetings. Members were advised that the council had contracts with 5 private accommodation providers, with provision primarily via shared houses. Quality of services provided is monitored under the terms of the contract using a number of methods including regular inspections. Recently, three of the providers had been determined as not meeting the required standard and had been required to improve within 3 months or contracts terminated. The Committee were advised of the presence of additional semi independent housing providers in the borough not commissioned by the council and thereby not subject to monitoring by the service but the responsibility of the placing authority.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the difficulties in transition of young people from the remit of children to adult social services, including the applications of differing thresholds. Officers also confirmed the need to improve communication with other council services including Strategic Housing, other areas of the Children's Service etc.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Leaving Care and Asylum Service officers forward to the Head of Service areas where communication between services needs to be improved in relation to achieving outcomes for care leavers, to allow the Chair and Head of Service to action and progress as necessary. 	<p>Head Service (Leaving care)</p> <p>Head Service (Leaving care)</p> <p>Head Service (Leaving care)/Chair</p>
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<p>CPAC29</p>	<p>REGULATION 33 VISITS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES</p> <p>The Committee were provided with feedback from Cllr Hare on the Regulation 33 visits undertaken on a regular basis by a small group of Members to the children's homes in the borough. The value of visits being undertaken by Members in conjunction with an independent assessor was recognised and that issues identified were being taken forward by management. The Members had met recently with the Director and Deputy Director of Children's Service and Head of Service, Resources and Placements (Children in Care) to discuss and progress issues identified during the course of the visits.</p> <p>Issues of concern raised following visits to the homes included the cleanliness of some kitchen areas, the condition of furnishings in bedrooms and addressing the sometimes institutional feel of the homes e.g. communal rooms not always being unlocked. It had also been considered that improvements could be made to young people's meetings and improving interaction between staff and CiC including how issues raised by young people are addressed.</p> <p>The Committee were advised that Haringey Park and Muswell House had recently been inspected by OFSTED and had been rated adequate and inadequate respectively. An action plan had subsequently been developed to address issues identified particularly in relation to improving policies, procedures and risk assessments. In addition, work was underway with the Tavistock-Haringey Service in relation to potential restructuring of the homes in the future.</p> <p>Confirmation was provided that all staff working in children's homes had access to the Framework-I computer system.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the OFSTED inspection reports from Haringey Park and Muswell House and the action plan produced to address recommendations be considered at the September meeting of the Committee. • That the Committee receives independent visitor inspection reports undertaken at council children's homes as a standing agenda item to allow progress against recommendations to be monitored. 	<p>Head Service (Res & Plcmts)</p> <p>Head Service (Res & Plcmts)</p>
<p>CPAC30</p>	<p>CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MONITORING DATA MAY 2009</p> <p>The Committee received a report setting out the range of performance monitoring undertaken by the Children and Young People's Service in order to determine which should be reported to the Committee on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Committee requested that in future all performance data reference numbers of children in addition to percentages.</p>	<p>Officers to note</p>

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	<p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the following performance monitoring data be reported to the Committee on a frequent basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of CiC and comparison data from statistic neighbours to allow trends to be monitored. ○ Number of children subject to care proceedings. ○ Social worker allocation and turnover for individual children over a year from the point that the child transfers to the CiC Service. ○ Visits to CiC. ○ Reviews in timescale (NI 66). In addition, the Committee requested to undertake random quality sampling of reviews following appropriate training, against a model review checklist. The Committee recognised that work would need to be undertaken by the Service to develop the checklist, ascertain sampling methods and anonymise files as appropriate. ○ Adoptions and special guardianship orders. ○ Monitoring of placement stability (NI 62 & 63) including comparison data from statistical neighbours to allow trends to be monitored. In addition, the Committee requested that the reason for placement changes be clearly identified, for example, whether a consequence of the child moving through the system, or where placements have broken down etc. ○ Monitoring of Personal Education Plan (PEP) including numbers in place and also completed within timescale plus reasons for non-compliance. ○ Annual CiC education results, particularly at post 16 level. ○ Attendance reports on a 6 monthly basis providing details of CiC with 25+ days absence from school including reasons for absence. ○ Care leavers in suitable accommodation (NI 147) ○ Monitoring of turnover of foster carers including level of deregistration and reporting of reasons that individuals stop becoming carers. Officers to determine best reporting format. ○ CiC health monitoring including pregnancy levels and maintenance of up to date medical and dental check ups. 	DDCS
CPAC31	<p>INVOLVING CHILDREN IN CARE - FEEDBACK FROM SOUTH AFRICA TRIP</p> <p>Cllr Allison provided feedback to the Committee following meeting with the group of looked after children that took part in the recent Tottenham Hotspur Foundation trips to South Africa.</p> <p>The young people were very enthusiastic about the trip and felt that the opportunity had changed their lives by allowing them to experience new cultures, to bond as a group and enhance skills including cooking, teaching and presenting.</p> <p>The Committee suggested that opportunities be explored with the agreement of the young people for the group to give presentations on their South Africa experience, for example to the CiC team or a CiC</p>	Looked After Children Team

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	<p>Conference etc.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That two members of the Committee attend on a half termly basis the homework club as part of the remit of interacting with CiC and obtaining their views, which would then be fed back to the Committee. Cllrs Allison and Reith to undertake the first visit. • That, following a request from the group of young people, the feasibility of providing laptops to CiC continuing in post 16 education be investigated and reported back to the Committee. 	<p>Mgr</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>Head Service (Res & Plcmts)</p>
<p>CPAC32</p>	<p>CHILD SAFEGUARDING</p> <p>There were no safeguarding issues pertinent to the remit of the Committee at the current time.</p>	
<p>CPAC33</p>	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>CPAC34</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Members considered the draft work plan for the Committee.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the agenda for the September meeting include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foster carer campaign (information report) ○ Report on the independent visitors scheme ○ Lettings strategy consultation report. ○ Options for introducing performance monitoring reporting in the Leaving Care and Asylum Service. <p>Consideration was given to the status of the Committee in light of discussions held by the Children’s Safeguarding Policy and Practice Panel conferring agreement for meetings of the Panel to be held in public and relevant documentation published. The Committee considered that parity should be maintained between the two bodies as both had been established as advisory bodies to Cabinet.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Cabinet on 21 July 2009 be recommended to establish the Corporate Parenting Committee as a Cabinet Advisory Committee with future meetings and documentation open to the public, subject to the access to information procedure rules. 	<p>Relevant officers to note</p>

Cllr Lorna Reith
Chair