

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 6 JULY 2010**

Councillors: Alexander, *Allison, *Engert, *Peacock, *Reith (Chair), *Stennett and *Watson

Apologies: Cllr Alexander

Also Present: Mark Gurrey, Wendy Tomlinson, Attracta Craig, Chris Chalmers and Denise Gandy.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC1	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Alexander for whom Cllr Reece substituted.</p>	
CPAC2	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
CPAC3	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
CPAC4	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2010 be agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
CPAC5	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Leaflet setting out mechanisms by which CiC can raise concerns/make complaints:</p> <p>Noted that Cllr Allison and the Deputy Director CYPS had recently met to discuss</p> <p>Adoption and Fostering Panel</p> <p>The Deputy Director CYPS reported that he had asked the Designated Nurse to investigate the administrative problems that had occurred with regard to the sharing of medical notes. Action taken to be reported back.</p>	MG
CPAC6	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – 2009/10 OUT TURN.</p> <p>The Committee received a summary of the performance outturns for children in care National indicators for 2009/10.</p>	

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It was noted that there was an increase of around 100 to 591 children in care, as of 31 March 2010. Whilst there was an increase nationally numbers in Haringey had risen more than statistical neighbours. Members were advised that the figures did not show the turnover and it would be interesting to have details of the increase in care proceedings. Details were given of current indicators which showed the number of children in care who had received six monthly reviews, those who had three or more placements, those who had been in their placement for at least two years, the numbers who had been adopted or granted special guardianship, the care leavers who turned 19 in the year who were in education, training or employment, and care leavers who were living in suitable accommodation. Additionally data relating to children in care health and education outcomes was noted. Further information around education, offending and health would be available in the Autumn, together with benchmarking data with statistical neighbours.

There was some discussion around the fact that CiC did better in primary than secondary school and the reasons for this. It was suggested that continuity of placement was a key factor relating to achievement. A further breakdown of the figures was requested.

Further to previous reports an update was given on foster care recruitment. A considerable amount of work was underway to try to increase the number of in house foster carers. The meeting noted that plans were in place to change the use of external providers and reduce the numbers used, which it was hoped would provide the Council with more negotiating power, drive up quality and reduce costs. Additionally work was in hand to improve the professionalism of the recruitment drive and discussions would be held with neighbouring boroughs on joint recruitment, which it was hoped would be enable greater competition with independent agencies. Also there would be targeted recruitment for specialist carers so that the number of children needing residential care would be kept to the minimum.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That officers clarify why there was no data for Looked after Children with a statement for 2007. MG
3. That future reports on performance management contain all the current data and in addition : MG
 - Data to enable trends to be monitored and comparisons made with statistical neighbours
 - A greater breakdown of ethnicity
 - Details of disabled children and unaccompanied asylum seekers
 - Details on sibling placements
 - Information on foster placement breakdowns

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links between educational achievement and stability of placements. • A comparison showing predicted grades for a cohort of children before they went into care and actual grades achieved (using Fisher Family Trust) • Details on the number of children who have been in care previously and length of time in care. • A snapshot showing the location of where children are placed in and out of borough. <p>4. That foster care recruitment be a standing item for future meetings.</p>	MG
CPAC7	<p>CHILDREN IN CARE STOCKTAKE</p> <p>In response to the Committee’s request a local stock take event was held on 12 June, hosted by the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. The event was set up to ensure that the views of young people in care were heard and to inform future planning for children in care and related services. It was noted that whilst there were regular opportunities for those young people aged 16 and over, the younger people had no such opportunity. The event was also used as a precursor for work to be carried out on the establishment of a Children in Care Council.</p> <p>The meeting noted that around 40 young people attended the event across two age groups 7-12 and 12-18. Details of the format for the event was noted. It was pleasing to note how accommodating and respectful all the young people were with each other and with different views expressed, and how the older ones helped the younger children with the voting.</p> <p>Details of the outcome from the voting exercise across the two age groups were discussed. Following on from the event it had been agreed that there was a need to run some focus groups to explore further issues raised, particularly around feeling safe. Other key messages that came across included more activities and leisure and the desire to go away with groups other than the family group, assistance with employment opportunities and for their reviews to be held in a more neutral venue. Also they expressed resounding support for not moving young people in their GCSE year. Following on from the event the service would construct a response to all the points raised and these would be fed back to the participants in a user friendly format. The service also wished to inform all children in care of the next steps regarding focus groups and to engage with them in ongoing communication through web information and through other events that it was hoped would help them to keep in touch with each other and help with planning for all children in care.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. .That the report be noted. 2. That a further report be presented on the use and access of social 	CC

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	<p>network sites.</p> <p>3. That a report around employment opportunities for children in care be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p>4. That a progress report be presented to the Committee on the formation of the Children in Care Council.</p> <p>5. That progress regarding suitable neutral venues for review meetings be reported back to the next meeting.</p> <p>6. That Focus groups be initiated with young people at Muswell House and Harringay Park</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>CC</p> <p>CC</p> <p>WT</p>
CPAC8	<p>TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <p>Consideration was given to the terms of reference for this Committee. There was a discussion around ensuring that children in care felt safe. It was noted that there were plans to establish a dialogue between this body and the Children in Care Council when established.</p> <p>Members were reminded of the importance of attending the training currently being given on Corporate parenting and safeguarding.</p> <p>Although there was some discussion on the possibility of co-opting a foster carer onto the Committee it was felt that it would not always be appropriate.</p> <p>Whilst there was no regular health service representative attendance at Committee meetings it was noted that the input from the health services to children in care was good.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. That Cabinet be requested to agree to the addition of the word "safety" being added to 3) after the word health.</p> <p>2. That a report be presented to the next meeting on apprenticeships and employment opportunities for children in care.</p> <p>3. That representatives from the Foster Carers Association be invited to a specific meeting dedicated to fostering issues.</p> <p>4. That the Senior Designated CiC Nurse be invited to a future meeting to discuss her work with children in care.</p> <p>5. That officers ascertain whether total respect training was still available.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>AC</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p>
CPAC9	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no new items of urgent business.</p>	

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<p>CPAC10</p>	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That as items 13 to 14 contained exempt information (as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government 1972; namely information likely to reveal the identity of an individual, and information relating to any individual) members of the press and public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.</p>	
<p>CPAC11</p>	<p>REGULATION 33 VISITS</p> <p>Members were advised that the purpose of Regulation 33 inspections was to ensure that the three Haringey residential homes i.e. Haslemere, (although not within the remit of the Committee) Haringey Park and Muswell House continued to operate in accordance with the National Minimal Standards and Regulations for Children’s homes.</p> <p>Monthly inspections of the homes were carried out by a combination of Councillors, one of the four staff from the Placements team and from June onwards included young people. It was agreed that it would be useful if there were more Councillors available to carry out the inspections. Details of the parameters of the inspections was noted.</p> <p>An example of Managers written response to reports including an update on actions was noted.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that in future reports should be in summary form setting out clearly issues of concern with an update of action taken.</p> <p>Although it was accepted that the levels of unauthorised absences was high the response taken would vary according to the level of risk to the young person.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Chair write to all Councillors with a view to seeking additional members willing to undertake Regulation 33 visits. 2. That officers’ check on the progress of CRB checks being made for all new Councillors involved in corporate parenting and safeguarding. 	<p>Chair</p> <p>MG</p>
<p>CPAC12</p>	<p>MUSWELL HOUSE</p> <p>The Deputy Director reported that following an OFSTED inspection visit on 21 June only a verbal feedback, which had deemed it to be inadequate, had so far been received.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p>	

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	<p>1. That a full report be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p>2. That the OFSTED report be circulated to Members when available.</p>	<p>MG/WT</p> <p>MG</p>
CPAC131	<p>CHILD SAFEGUARDING</p> <p>There were no new cases reported.</p>	
CPAC132	<p>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
CPAC133	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS – ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities for care leavers and details of NEETs • Education attainment and update on Virtual School • Muswell House • Performance Management data <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 30 SEPTEMBER 2010 (Provisional date)</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> <p>WT</p> <p>MG</p>

LORNA REITH
Chair