

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2010**

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

Also Present: Debbie Haith, Wendy Tomlinson, Attracta Craig, Chris Chalmers, Rashma Toora and Emma Cummergen.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CPAC14	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY) Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Peacock and Cllr Alexander.	
CPAC15	URGENT BUSINESS There were no items of urgent business.	
CPAC16	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.	
CPAC17	MINUTES RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 06 July 2010 be agreed as an accurate record.	
CPAC18	MATTERS ARISING Adoption and Fostering Panel The Deputy Director CYPS reported that she had asked the Designated Nurse to investigate the administrative problems that had occurred with regard to the sharing of medical notes . Proposed that Cllr Solomon(member of the Adoption Panel) and Cllr Peacock (member of the Fostering Panel) be informed of this action. Data in the performance report relating to looked after children with a statement . Noted that future educational information would now include this. Suitable neutral venues for LAC review meetings . Members were informed that the child should be asked their preference for the location of these meetings. Agreed that officers follow up on this to	DH WT

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	ensure that this practice is continuing. Progress on CRB checks for all new councillors involved in corporate parenting and safeguarding. The committee agreed, as a matter of urgency, that this action is further followed up with the Assistant Chief Executive for People and Organisational Development to ensure that all the newly appointed councillors to this committee and those interested in taking part in regulation 33 visits have had a CRB check. The committee noted that updates on Foster Care would be included in the performance report which is a standing item on the agenda for the committee. The committee requested an update on the number of Councillors taking up corporate parenting training.	DH All to note DH
CPAC19	PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – JULY 2010 DATA. The Committee received an update of children in care National indicators and outcomes for 2010 together with targets for 2010/11 and other key performance information as at the end of July 10. The committee were asked to note that comparative data for 2009/10 would be published in the Autumn and with this in mind there would also follow, to the next meeting, information on the full profile of regulated services provided to children in the borough. It was noted that there had been an increase to 621 children in care as of 31 July 2010. Members noted that 33 children had become looked after and 18 children had ceased to be looked after during July. Details of the number of care proceedings initiated both during July and over the previous 12 months was reported. The committee noted that there had been a 25% increase in care proceedings in Haringey compared to this time last year. Although the national average of children in care had risen by 17% it was noted that the figure had risen by a greater amount in Haringey. Officers verbally reported that the numbers of looked after children had stabilized in August and September. The committee sought information on the timescales for court care proceedings and asked whether the number of siblings involved had an impact on the length of the proceedings. Officers advised that in theory the number of siblings involved should not be a factor however there could be issues such as locating special guardian's. There was an increasing concern about delays in care proceedings and the Director of Children Services was seeking to initiate a meeting with the judiciary to discuss this urgent matter further. The Chair advised officers of the need to collate information and data on delayed care proceedings in readiness for any possible Pan London investigation on this matter. Details of the age and ethnic breakdown of placements across boroughs were noted. The committee requested that a further comparison be made between the ethnic group numbers of LAC against the ethnic breakdown of the borough to understand any possible correlations.	DH All to note DH

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Also, when considering the age ranges of LAC, it would be useful for the committee to understand the number of children entering these categories that were newly located in the borough. Officers provided information to the committee on the procedures followed for children with care plans moving to the borough with assurances given of the careful scrutiny given to care plans. The committee noted that previous assessments are reinitiated should the Social Worker feel that there is inadequate information provided. Discussion and information further followed on the knowledge the local authority has of children moving into the borough and what the usual channels are for receiving this information. The committee noted that only children which have come into contact with other boroughs children's services will be known to services when relocating.

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The committee sought further assurances about the welfare of LAC when placing them outside of the borough. Officers advised the committee that when placing children in outside borough residential settings, the homes chosen were either rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted. Upon request committee members could be supplied with details of the commonly used homes in order to access Ofsted reports. Further clarification was sought on the stability of outside borough placements with responses provided by officers on the following:

- the numbers of LAC placed outside the borough,
- the types of placements i.e. residential or foster care available,
- the level of contact being made with LAC located outside the borough,
- how outside borough residential settings are chosen for LAC,
- the reasons for placing the children out of the borough,
- length of placements and reasons for some placements being more stable and successful than others.

The committee requested that the next performance report includes more detailed information on out of borough placements taking into account the above points discussed and provides a breakdown of the data on the stability and long term stability (N163) of placements for children in care. Information should also be included on the type of cases encountered, and whether court proceedings delays are also having an impact.

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The committee sought information and assurances on the procedures and guidance followed for children termed as "missing" from either a residential setting or foster care setting. The committee learned that placement teams in boroughs were notified of significant incidents where LAC are involved. Officers in Haringey Children's services ensured that protocols for missing children were understood by residential homes both inside and outside of the borough. The committee were pleased to note that the attendance of LAC children at school was tracked on a daily basis as this was a speedy way of signalling to the local authority any immediate absences and also highlighting any possible issues if a child has variable attendance at school.

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The committee discussed adoption and special guardianship orders as part of NI61. Information was provided on special guardianship and adoption targets.

As agreed, at the previous meeting, an update was provided on foster care recruitment and this would continue to be reported upon in the performance report. The committee noted that the service had been restructured with the recruitment team now separated to deal solely with the recruitment of foster carers. Officers spoke of the necessity of providing a good customer service to potential foster carers as this made the difference in their recruitment. The services was improved and Members of the committee were welcome to assess the service provided if they wished. The Chair enquired about what work was being done with other local authorities to jointly source foster carers as realistically the local authority and neighbouring boroughs were all targeting the same potential foster carers. Officers reported that there was some early work being completed with four other north London boroughs on: pooling and sharing foster carers services, negotiating costs of IFA foster carers (as different boroughs paid different rates for the foster carers used) training of staff and foster carers. The committee reiterated the need to continue speedily with the work of developing this consortium as it would enable a better and cost effective service to be achieved. The Chair asked to be informed of any high level issues and offered to speak with relevant counterparts, at the 4 north London boroughs, to hasten and resolve issues when required.

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The Committee were interested in finding out what percentage of enquires, for foster caring, were received from the west of the borough and also suggested that recruitment leaflets on foster caring could be distributed at the next Muswell Hill and Crouch End Area Assembly meetings. The committee also recommended that officers find out the dates of up and coming area assembly meetings, in the west of the borough, so as to seek agreement from area assembly chairs to include leaflets on fostering at these meetings.

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RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the performance report includes information on the full profile of regulated services provided to children in the borough.
3. That the performance report provides information on out of borough placements as per the committee's discussion and provides a breakdown of the data on the stability and long term stability (N163) of placements for children in care.
4. The committee agreed that the performance report further contain comparisons between the ethnic group numbers of LAC against the ethnic breakdown of the borough. That the report further add details of number of children entering the age range categories of

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	LAC to understand if they are newly located in the borough.	DH
CPAC20	VIRTUAL SCHOOL - UPDATE Local Authorities were required to have a “Virtual School” of Children in Care with specific responsibility to track, monitor and raise education attainment. Details of the staffing establishment of Haringey’s Virtual School, which had been in place since April 2010 was noted. In considering this report the Committee was pleased to note that the Virtual School had been short listed under 4 categories of the forthcoming Children and Young People Now magazine awards. Provisional GCSE results were given for the 48 children in Year 11 who had been in care continuously for a period of more than 12 months. All 32 young people who sat GCSE exams achieved a level one qualification or above. It was pleasing to note that the four young people who had attended the Pupil Support Centre achieved one or more GCSE’s at level one (grades D- G) and all of them have secured college placements. Six young people achieved A and A* grades. It was noted that the extension of the Virtual School to post 16 would allow these young people’s progress to continue to be monitored beyond secondary school. The committee learned that, the 31% of Looked after Children gaining 5 A*-C grades, had been the subject of early intervention work at key stage 2 and therefore it was especially pleasing that this extra assistance had resulted in good grades for these children. The committee further requested circulation of supplementary information about the numbers of LAC passing A levels and those progressing onto university. Noted that the continuation of the Virtual School to provide post 16 services would enable this information to be held. Details of training delivered to all designated teachers, social workers and foster carers between April – July 2010 was given together with an evaluation of a DT conference held in July 2010. Officers were pleased to note that there had been significant positive feedback on the training event by teachers on promoting rapid and accelerated educational progress of children in care. This was evidenced by good sign up to online training which should in turn help support better completion of Personal Education Plans. The committee recommended that the good news on LAC attainment should be shared with the School Standards committee to continue raising the expectations about what Looked after Children can achieve. RESOLVED 1. The committee congratulated the young people for their	AC AC All to

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	achievements and thanked the Virtual School project team for their hard work and commitment. 2. Agreed that invitations be sent to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee members for the forth coming awards ceremony for LAC taking place on the 30th September 2010.	note AC
CPAC21	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARE LEAVERS AND INFORMATION ON NEETS As requested the Committee received an update report on the number of young people leaving care who were defined as NEET (not in education, employment or training), details of employment links established by the leaving care and asylum service and the support provided by the service to young people to young people to help with finding employment and training. The meeting noted that there were 482 young people who were in education, training or employment and 127 who were NEET's (not in education, employment or training). A detailed breakdown of the ethnicity of the young NEET people was given together with suggested barriers to employment. The Leaving Care and Asylum service offered a variety of support to help young people obtain employment, training or education. In particular they worked in partnership with a range of other agencies and organisations. These links needed to be further developed in order to meet the needs of the young people and it was noted that there were areas for further development. The committee was interested in finding out about the emotional support received by LAC who were leaving care and living alone. Discussion was focussed around what support the local authority currently provides with feelings of isolation and what support is provided after normal working hours to care leavers. There was work being completed by the leaving care team on negotiating contracts for providers of accommodation ,to ensure out of hours support is available to care leavers. Further suggestions put forward from the committee for supporting care leavers were: calling upon older care leavers who may want to provide advice and support to new care leavers , also utilising care leaver events to allow connections to be made and experiences to be shared. The committee also discussed the pros and cons of placing care leavers with similar peers and concluded that there should be more development work on dealing with the issues of isolation. RESOLVED: 1. The report be noted	RT/EC

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	of the Committee) Haringey Park and Muswell House. 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. The committee noted the recent issues raised by the visitors for resolution by the 3 homes. RESOLVED: 1. That the report be noted	
CPAC26	CHILD SAFEGUARDING Ofsted report on the announced inspection of first response team was due to be published on the 16th September.	
CPAC27	NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS There were none.	
CPAC28	ANY OTHER BUSINESS – ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING Muswell Hill House Update Formation of the CiC Council Update on Fostercare Consortium joint working] Information to be included in the performance report as set out in CPAC 19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 11 November 2010	WT DH WT DH

LORNA REITH
Chair