

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2012**

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

Apologies Councillor Solomon

Also Present: Libby Blake, Marion Wheeler, Attracta Craig, Tracy Hutchings, John Lewis, Alex White, Phil Dileo, Wendy Tomlinson.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY										
CPAC182	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Solomon.</p>											
CPAC183	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business put forward for consideration.</p>											
CPAC184	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest put forward.</p>											
CPAC185	<p><b>ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE</b></p> <p>The Committee agreed that the notes and actions arising from the informal meeting held with Aspire between 6.30-7.30pm be compiled and distributed to Members of the Committee and Aspire. It was agreed that the actions be added to the formal minutes to allow the Committee to monitor and progress the agreed actions. (These are included below) It was also agreed to invite Aspire to the start of the next Corporate Parenting meeting on 04<sup>th</sup> December 2012.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1576 1337 2132"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="284 1576 799 1644">What you told us (Aspire)</th> <th data-bbox="804 1576 1337 1644">What we have done(Council)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1650 799 1718">We want a regular budget</td> <td data-bbox="804 1650 1337 1718"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1724 799 1872">We want Access to printing and design facilities when advertising our events</td> <td data-bbox="804 1724 1337 1872"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1879 799 2027">We want Publicity and promotion of the group and its work</td> <td data-bbox="804 1879 1337 2027"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 2033 799 2132">We want leadership training for up to 7 people</td> <td data-bbox="804 2033 1337 2132"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	What you told us (Aspire)	What we have done(Council)	We want a regular budget		We want Access to printing and design facilities when advertising our events		We want Publicity and promotion of the group and its work		We want leadership training for up to 7 people		Clerk
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	<b>We want to cook together</b>			
	<b>We want LAC living outside the borough to know about our events and be given travel expenses to attend Aspire events</b>			
	<b>We want Information about Aspire in training for foster carers</b>			
	<b>We want Leisure Passes for some LAC</b>			
	<b>We want support for learning musical instruments when interest in this type of extracurricular activity is shown</b>			
	<b>We want to know how to complain and take forward a disagreement about our care</b>			
	<b>We want the IT offer made clear to us</b>			
<b>CPAC186</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>  The minutes of the 04 <sup>th</sup> September were agreed as an accurate record. The discussion relating to adoption and the action to provide a letter on the outcome of the adoption diagnostic were omitted from the notes. However, the letter from MP Edward Timpson was tabled for Committee Members to consider.			
<b>CPAC187</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  The Committee felt it would be useful for the Performance report to distinguish and explain the indicators that were locally set and those which were nationally required.		MW	
<b>CPAC188</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</b>  The Committee were asked to consider performance figures and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children, from the start of the year up to August 2012.			

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**OP457 (Number of Looked after Children who ceased to be looked after who had been looked after less than a month)** The performance in this area was markedly better than this time last year. This change was associated with the use of targeted intervention and change in emphasis, of the service, to managing risk and getting early help to families. One example of this was targeting Youth Service resources to help young people, in families, that are at risk of going into care.

**OP389 (Children in care including unaccompanied asylum seeking children)**

The number of children in care was steadily reducing with the safety of children and young people still paramount. The Director of the Children's Service was factoring the impact of the housing and council tax benefit changes in the continuing strategy to reduce the number of LAC through prevention initiatives and early help to families and there were plans to mitigate the risks posed by the benefits reforms. Reports close to these matters had been compiled for the LSCB and it was agreed to supply Cllr Brabazon with this information after the meeting.

Dir CS

**HY32 (Percentage of Children placed in Haringey provision)** The Committee heard about the initiatives to broaden the range of foster carers available to the council. This was through training carers to increase their range of abilities. The Head of Commissioning and Placements was confident that the service was better at matching children and young people to foster carers to ensure that placements were stable and sustained. With regards to the number of young people and children placed outside of the borough and those placed in the borough by other local authorities, the Director for Children's services was starting a dialogue with private residential providers in the borough to ensure that Haringey children were prioritised for any private placements available to enable them to stay local as far as possible.

Some Members expressed frustration at the perceived lack of improvement to the number of foster carers recruited, that were living in the borough, as it was felt that the number of looked after children placed outside of the borough was still too high. These Members continued to question whether past actions, agreed by the Committee in relation to these areas, had been followed through. Understanding continued to be sought on the reasons for the disparate performance in foster care recruitment compared to other local authorities. In response to these concerns, The Head of Commissioning and Placements advised of the increase in the use of independent foster carers. Also a new framework agreement was being worked on by North London Fostering Consortium, in relation to foster care recruitment, and the Head of Commissioning would examine further how this agreement can still better facilitate the placement of children with a foster carer in the borough. The Committee were assured that, although the majority of looked after children were placed outside the borough, they were often in neighbouring boroughs and close to the border with Haringey.

The Committee sought further assurance on how the required momentum to increase foster carers, and decrease LAC could be

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	<p>sustained given the decrease in top level management in the Children's Service. The Committee were advised that the streamlining of management would improve the speed at which decisions were taken in Children's Services, in turn assisting these key areas.</p>	
<p>CPAC189</p>	<p><b>ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT FOR HARINGEY CHILDREN IN CARE 2012</b></p> <p>The Head of the Virtual School introduced the report which reported on the progress and results for Children in Care: at the end of Reception, Key Stages 1 and 2 and 4, undergraduates and graduates and new university entrants.</p> <p>The Head of the Virtual School had also invited John Lewis, Community Partnerships Director, and the lead for the Chrysalis Accelerator Intervention programme for Looked after Children along with Alex White Community Development Manager at Tottenham Hotspur to talk about their work in partnership with the Virtual School with looked after children and young people.</p> <p>The Virtual School consisted of a head teacher, a small number of teachers and an Education Welfare officer. The Virtual School had been established to tackle the low levels of aspiration seen in young people as well as the carers working with them. The progress set out in the attached report was a summary of their work over the past 12 months. It was important to note that the Virtual School was driven by policy and research to help plan and develop looked after children's learning and respond to their different circumstances.</p> <p>John Lewis, Community Partnerships Director, addressed the Committee and spoke about the work of the Chrysalis Accelerator Programme for looked after children, an intervention programme which had been co-developed by Highgate School and Future Foundation in partnership with the virtual heads of Enfield, Barnet and Camden to raise aspirations, attainment and confidence leading to successful applications to higher education and into work. The Committee learned about the programme's ethos, aims and what it hoped to achieve with young people in care. The programme started from year 6 and supported participants through to year 10. They were also invited to summer school at Highgate School. During the programme there were initiatives to: develop confidence, support young people's transition periods in their teenage years, promote the benefit of extracurricular activities, improve skills in numeracy and literacy, support self development and personal responsibility for learning. The Virtual School in Haringey was essential in facilitating the attendance of children and young people at the events organised by Chrysalis.</p> <p>The Committee commended the work of the Chrysalis project and felt it was a key initiative to be part of, as a council, to support raising the achievement and aspiration of young people in care. The Committee voiced their commitment and support to the project and endorsed its</p>	

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aims and development.

The Chair invited Alex White, Community Development Manager at Tottenham Hotspur Foundation to speak about the Eighteen Project, funded by the GLA and match funded by Haringey and Waltham Forest councils, aimed at providing 1-2-1 mentoring support and signposting for identified young people in care and care leavers living in Barnet, Haringey and Waltham Forest. Referrals to the project were received from the Virtual School and it had a number of success stories which the local authorities involved were an instrumental part of. The Eighteen Project ultimate aim was to build confidence and get Young people into education and paid employment.

The Eighteen Project was looking to secure funding for its next phase of work and was developing a toolkit to enable the project to be replicated by other football clubs.

The Committee was interested in finding out about how the project was meeting its set milestones and whether there had been an increase in physical participation by young people involved in the project. Also as education was the focus behind receiving the funding, how would the project meet the funding criteria when it was sports based? The Committee learnt that the project was meeting milestones and the GLA were flexible with the sports element of the project as it was seen as a tool to enabling access to education.

Information on potential European funding opportunities was shared. It was explained that, as the project included getting young people into work, it could be eligible to apply for the employment element of European funding .Also the ability to obtain match funding would put the project on a strong position. Information on access to this funding was available from the London Council's website.

The Committee noted that mentoring was a strong component of the scheme and mentors were paid by the project to ensure that this provision was consistently available to young people. There were between twenty and thirty part time mentors who also worked in other areas of the programme.

It was noted that there was a targeted programme for girls and female mentors available to them.

The Committee continued to hear about the initiatives of the Virtual School, such as the local reading scheme supported by local community organisations and the library, aimed at inspiring younger children in care to engage in learning. The Virtual School understood the lifestyle of a child or young person in care and planned events according to them and their carer's availability.

The Virtual School team were congratulated on their work in supporting looked after children and young people in their academic achievements

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	<p>this year. The Committee were interested in comparing these academic performance figures to national figures. This information would be available to the Committee in the New Year when figures were published.</p> <p>The Virtual School were not complacent about these results and saw their role in supporting looked after children in their educational achievement as a continual journey. They were currently focussing on the pathway to key stage 3 to drive up results further.</p> <p>Some housekeeping issues regarding the Virtual School website highlighted were: updating the care matters report and term dates for 2012/13.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p>
<b>CPAC190</b>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>The press and public were excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following items as they contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the local government Act 1972(as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government act 1985), paras 1&amp;2 namely information relating to any individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>	
<b>CPAC191</b>	<p><b>ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT FOR HARINGEY CHILDREN IN CARE 2012</b></p> <p>As per CPAC189</p>	
<b>CPAC192</b>	<p><b>PROGRESS REPORT FOLLOWING A RECENT OFSTED INSPECTION OF A COUNCIL CHILDREN'S HOME</b></p> <p>The Committee considered the action plan relating to the findings of a recent OFSTED inspection of the council's short stay children's home.</p>	
<b>CPAC193</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>The Director of Children's Services would distribute to Committee Members, by email, research collated on permanency options for them to consider and comment on before the December meeting when the Permanency strategy is considered.</p>	Dir CS

Cllr Ann Waters

Chair