

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2013**

Councillors Allison, Brabazon, Dogus, Reece, Solomon and Stennett

Apologies Councillor Waters

Also Present: Lisa Redfern, Chris Chalmers, Marion Wheeler, Tracy Hutchings, Paul McCarthy, Denise Gandy.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
TEX270.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Cllr Waters.</p> <p>Cllr Brabazon was elected to chair the meeting.</p>	
TEX271.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business put forward.</p>	
TEX272.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest put forward.</p>	
TEX273.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 03rd October were agreed for accuracy.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Agreed that information is gathered by the Virtual School on how the Looked after children element of the pupil premium grant is spent across schools . This is to inform a report to the Committee on the 6th March 2014.</p> <p><u>Outsourcing of Fostering recruitment Activities</u></p> <p>The Children’s service has gone out to the market and are seeking possible organisations that can work with the council in increasing the number of internal foster carers. The tenders of potential providers would be ready for assessment at the end of January , earlier than expected , with an organisation expected to be recruited by this time. The Committee were pleased to note, that there were already 15-20 new foster carers in the pipeline for recruitment following past council recruitment activities. It was noted that the council team will continue to provide the newly recruited foster carers with support and supervision. Agreed a brief report back come to the meeting in March.</p>	<p>Tracy Hutchings</p> <p>Paul McCarthy</p>

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	<p>completed as soon as possible.</p> <p>Councillors spoke about anticipating and providing information in 'bite sized chunks' at the appropriate time in a young person's or care leaver life so they are best placed to act on the information given and seek their entitlement. There was also a need to keep in mind the range of ages of children in care and care leavers and ensure correspondence was designed accordingly .</p> <p>Agreed that the recommendations, at page 19 of the parliamentary report, be used as part of a self evaluation tool to understand whether young people in care and leaving care are accessing the full benefits of their entitlements. This exercise will also help identify the particular groups of young people more work needs to be done with to raise awareness of their entitlements..</p>	<p>Chalmers</p> <p>Chris Chalmers</p> <p>Chris Chalmers</p>
<p>TEX276.</p>	<p>HOUSING PROVISION, YOUNG ADULTS SERVICE</p> <p>The Head of the Young Adults Service provided a brief overview of the arrangements in Haringey to meet the housing needs of care leavers and young people facing homelessness.</p> <p>Key information noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a social housing quota of 60 properties a year allocated to care leavers [There are 15 properties provided in each quarter of the year and young people need to attend a tenancy workshop, as part of the arrangement, for receiving the accommodation] • Care leavers studying, outside London ,at university are still entitled to come back to the borough and be placed in Band A for housing. • A property in Conway Road N17 had been identified for the council to covert into a shared living space for care leavers. They would be supported by a permanent support worker living in the property. • Some supported lodgings for young people being taken forward by the YMCA. • The work with care leavers who have no recourse to public funds • Current procurement of semi independent accommodation • The legal legislation which the council in following in terms of housing young people. <p>Members reported back the following issues raised by Aspire in the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of two bedroom accommodation included in the quota, • The poor quality of semi independent accommodation , • Lack of inspection of shared housing and semi independent accommodation before provision to a young person 	

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- The need to timetable placement checks to ensure the landlord is keeping the property clean and in a suitable condition for young people living there.
- Consistent, continued support from a personal adviser to the young person living in shared or semi independent accommodation.

Officers asked Committee Members to keep in mind that there were young people that chose to live in semi independent accommodation as they did not want to remain in foster care . So, there was a need to provide these young people with accommodation, as placing the young person in a residential care home was also not acceptable.

Members raised concerns about the quality of the accommodation being procured and there was a need to ensure checks were carried out before the properties were agreed. Aspire had offered to complete visits to the properties to provide an idea, to the council, of the quality of accommodation and this offer should be taken up.

Members noted that properties provided to 16-18 years olds were not regulated, centrally, by government and therefore the responsibility lay with the local authority and ultimately social workers and contract officers to determine their standards. Some councillors shared their own personal experiences of dealing with young people who have been living in shared and semi independent accommodation and felt there was a duty of care to the young people to ensure that the accommodation they were being given met certain standards. The interim Director for Children's services mentioned the Adults safeguarding protocol which could be examined to understand if any elements can be applied to safeguarding young people in care.

The Chair felt that the quality of accommodation for care leavers was a national issue as well as a local one. Councils were funding accommodation for young people and seemed to have little choice in the quality of the provision due to the demand for places. However, landlords needed some standards to follow to ensure that the living conditions were appropriate, especially for younger care leavers going into accommodation from the ages of 16-17. There was a significant gap in the regulation of these properties and this was an issue which should raised by local MP's and taken up with government ministers in the DFE.

The Committee agreed with the Interim Director's suggestion to consider the Adults safeguarding protocol, at the next meeting. This would help the Committee provide an input into which elements of the protocol that can be applied to further take forward the council's responsibility for the standard of accommodation for young people in care and care leavers.

The Committee established that there are 55 [16-17] year olds[10% of the total number of LAC in the borough] not living with a family ,in separate accommodation, and they felt it would be important to look at this group separately . Agreed that a report is compiled which is focused

**Paul
McCarthy**

**Interim Dir
CS/Chris
Chalmers/
Adults
services**

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	<p>on this group of young people and sets out the council's support to them and how this compares to other local authorities, working with a similar cohort.</p>	<p>Chris Chalmers</p>
<p>TEX277.</p>	<p>BRIEF UPDATE REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WELFARE REFORMS ON SPECIAL GUARDIANS AND FOSTER CARERS The Committee wanted to ensure that foster carers, special guardians were not adversely affected by the reforms and were able to continue looking after the children placed in their care. The report indicated that, to date, the reforms have only had a minor impact on Haringey's Foster carers and Special Guardians.</p>	
<p>TEX278.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES The report set out performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children for the period ending in October. Committee Members asked for the following information to be included in the report to Committee in March: IRO reviews - It would be important for Members to understand how many children/ young people were present at these meetings and the efforts being made to seek the child's / young person's participation. The Assistant Director agreed that this information was extractable and could be added to the next report. In terms, of the young people that were coming into the care of the council following a court decision to place them on remand, there was a need for the committee to be aware of the offers being made to the judiciary beforehand i.e. seeking bail . Agreed that the forthcoming report, from the court manager, include information on how the council is being proactive in its permanency planning before issuing care proceedings and also contain comments on how the council is working to reduce the number of children that need to become subject to care proceedings.</p>	<p>Chris Chalmers/ Margaret Gallagher Chris Chalmers/ Margaret Gallagher Eileen Flavin/ Chris Chalmers</p>
<p>TEX279.</p>	<p>REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE APRIL - OCTOBER 2013 Committee Members received a 6 monthly update on the key area of progress and achievement for safeguarding and social care elements of the children and Young People's service. They considered the recent downward trend in the number of children subject to a child protection plan, the performance for completing assessments and visits and suggested officers look at this information as a whole, together with the age breakdown of children, to understand if there are any areas for concern. Suggested that the Children's service budget could be a further item for consideration in March Committee meeting. This would help the</p>	<p>Interim Dir CS Interim Dir CS</p>

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	<p>Committee understand the focus and spend of the service for the coming financial year.</p> <p>Members noted the imminent departure of Marion Wheeler, the Assistant Director for the Children’s service . The Committee placed on record their thanks and appreciation to Marion for all her hard work for the children’s service, over the last 5 years.</p> <p>The Committee placed on record their thanks and congratulations to the Virtual school team for the excellent number of looked after children in higher education.</p>	
TEX280.	CORPORATE PARENTING QUESTIONS FOR COUNCILLORS	
	Noted.	
TEX281.	NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
	Noted.	
TEX282.	EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	
TEX283.	EXEMPT BUSINESS	
	Noted.	
TEX284.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	<p>The next meeting was due to take place on the 6th March at 6.30pm. This meeting would be followed by a joint meeting with the Children’s Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee on the same night at 7.30pm.</p>	

Cllr Zena Brabazon

Chair