

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2014**

Councillors Adamou, Allison, Brabazon, Hare, Reece, Scott, Solomon, Stennett, Stewart and Waters

Apologies Councillor Browne

Also Present: Chris Chalmers, Paul McCarthy, Myra O'Farrell, Elaine Redding,

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
TEX58.	APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR Cllr Stewart was elected to chair the meeting.	Clerk
TEX59.	APOLOGIES[IF ANY] Apologies for absence were received from Lisa Redfern and Cllr Browne.	Clerk
TEX60.	ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS No items of urgent business were put forward.	
TEX61.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest put forward.	
TEX62.	PERFORMANCE The Committee noted that a new performance data set was in the process of being compiled and launched and in the meantime a shorter report with some performance data headlines concerning both safeguarding and looked after children was included for Member consideration . The service had recently started producing performance data on a weekly basis to assist managers deal with pressing performance issues such as completing initial assessments in 10 days and making visits to children on a child protection plan in the required timescale. Monthly information from the new data set would be available for the next meeting of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee on the 1 st April. Noted that there was no change in the key performance indicators being reported on and there would now be additional information on timeliness of assessments, social workers workloads and sickness levels. Following comments from councillors, the following information was	

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2014**

	<p>noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that the year end performance figures concerning looked after children, and care leavers could be included in the performance report to the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice meeting on the 1st April 2014 and distributed to Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. Members of CPAC were also invited, by the Chair, to attend the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee for this performance item. • Agreed that staffing issues should be included in the performance report. • The narrative to the score card would continue to highlight performance issues and the actions being completed to address them. A call over meeting to discuss performance is held on a monthly basis. Therefore, issue arising from the analysis of performance is data taken forward at close hand with managers. • The perceived high target for reducing the number of children in care did also include the number of young people expected to be leaving care. • No children were currently missing from care. In the last month a family with 5 children had become subject to child protection plan process and had left the Haringey area. The families whereabouts was being investigated by the council to provide the new local authority, which they are now residing in, with details of their case and to allow the children to continue to be subject to safeguarding measures. 	<p>Clerk/ AD CS</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p>
<p>TEX63.</p>	<p>QUALITY ASSURANCE UPDATE</p> <p>The Committee were provided with the highlights of the previous audit exercise and advised that the examination of domestic violence work had led to an action plan being developed and taken forward as a tool by the DV co-ordinator to hold services, working on domestic violence cases, to account on . In response to councillor questions, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quality Assurance Framework was in the process of being developed and final details will be presented to the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee in July . • The new weekly performance scorecard will allow the Quality Board to consider where there are consistent issues emerging that require further investigation and analysis .For example, the 	<p>Clerk</p>

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2014**

	<p>recent increase in the number of children subject to plan required evaluation to ensure that the required standards, for Child Protection Plans, were being kept to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that actions plans, developed as a result of audit findings are 'smart' and there will also be a focus on ensuring outcomes from audits are also understood. 	
<p>TEX64.</p>	<p>NORTH LONDON CARE PROCEEDINGS PROJECT - QUARTERLY UPDATE</p> <p>The Committee were reminded that Barnet, Enfield and Haringey boroughs have agreed to work together as the North London Care Proceedings Project (NLCPP) to reduce avoidable delay and to improve decision making for children subject to care proceedings.</p> <p>The Committee considered quarter 2 figures for the number of applications going forward to care proceedings and overall there was an improvement at this quarter and in currently in quarter 3 [figures were currently being collated for this] in reducing delays in care proceedings .</p> <p>However, the Committee were concerned that a majority of cases were unlikely to be completed within the 26 week timetable and raised concern about the attendance of the presiding judge for Haringey cases and irregular attendance of key parties at the project steering group meetings.</p> <p>In response to questions the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate representations had been made by the council, regarding the attendance of the judge at hearings. Data for the latest quarter still demonstrated a significant drop in the number of care proceeding lasting longer than 26 weeks. In the audit into the quality of social workers reports to court, members noted that cases can proceed to court proceeding from First Response, for section 47 investigations, through child protection plans. Suggested that the next report to Committee include the starting point of cases to provide members with some understanding of their source. All the necessary steps in the legal adoption process were followed and the council gave significant consideration to the family circumstances when looking for adoptive parents. The 	<p>EF/CC</p>

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2014**

	<p>council were also subject to the scrutiny of CAFCASS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The borough was on course to appoint 23 special guardians this year and the Committee were assured that family members were frequently considered for this role. • The analysis of court reports from social workers showed that a minority had more of a focus on parental capacity when there was a need to articulate the issues for the child in the report. This would be taken forward in the new templates. • Although, the training provided to social workers by the Court manager was not mandatory, the work required by a social worker to take forward care proceedings were a compulsory part of their role. There were case meetings with Legal involving the social worker before the court hearing. Therefore, a social worker would have a good understanding of what is needed to prepare for the case . • Agreed that the use of acronyms should be avoided in reports. 	EF/CC
TEX65.	ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
	NONE	
TEX66.	EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	NOT REQUIRED	
TEX67.	NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS	
	NONE	

Cllr James Stewart
Chair