

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2014**

Councillors Berryman, Gunes, Hare, Morris, Stennett, Waters (Chair) and Weston

CPAC324. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

There were no apologies for absence.

NOTED

CPAC325. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil items

CPAC326. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

CPAC327. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2014 be agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

CPAC328. MATTERS ARISING

CPAC 22 – The Chair reported that the Annual report would be reported to the March 2015 meeting.

CPAC 23 - With regard to fostering and mystery shopping Neelam Bhardwaja to liaise with Monica Singh.

CPAC329. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT : CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Committee received an introduction of the circulated report from Neelam Bhardwaja.

Arising from the introduction members raised concerns and took a wide ranging discussion in relation to the following points/issues:

Areas for focus

- targets not being achieved effectively on Personal Education Plans (51%) and discussions/concerns expressed as to why the process for completion was not being adhered to. Concerns that all parties concerned were not giving the plans adequate attention and a need to ensure compliance, as part of performance assessment. Whilst there was acceptance that there may be good reasons for why there may not be compliance the actual figure should be higher as the plan was a vital tool in the key issues identified developmental stages of the individual

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- Adoption Figures

Noted that figures for LBH had fallen and whether the recent judgement had had an impact on timescales in England overall. It was noted that the year to date the average for London was 22. In response to a number of queries Ms Walker clarified that in terms of the judgement the issue of adoption being the only option had been questioned and the scenario of a child in care being placed for adoption then at the last moment a relative had come forward – and that although the child had been in long term care and placed and settled, with the advent of a relative this would require the further assessment. The dichotomy was that the adoption court recommended adoption but the Munday judgement said different. Ms Walker added that it was likely that that judgement would be challenged and would then become case law. It was in her 22 years experience that no one case was alike and in assessing each case individually whilst the process could be completed in 24/26 weeks from start to finish it was always dependent on the individual multiple complexities of each case.

It was noted by Ms Bhardwaja that as of 30 October 509 children were in care and although this remained high the target was to reduce this to below 500 and this remained higher than the average in similar boroughs.

Concerns were expressed in relation to the Care or pathway plans and the need to ensure that all children in care had plans completed and in response assurances were given re the challenge to up the numbers similar to the earlier concerns in relation to personal education plans.

RESOLVED

- i. That the contents of the report be noted;
- ii. in relation to the low percentage levels in completion of Personal Education Plans, officers be requested to re-launch the plans with Social Workers, teachers and pupils;
- iii. in relation to the low completion levels of children in care plans, there needed to be more emphasis to the completion of these plans in order to meet the necessary 100% targets; and
- iv. That an progress update report be submitted to the next meeting in March 2015 specifically in relation to this ;

ACTION : N BHARDWAJA/J ABBEY

CPAC330. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

The Committee received a succinct introduction to the circulated report from the Interim Director of Children's Services – Jon Abbey.

A detailed discussion of the findings of the report ensued and the following main points were noted.

- Concerns expressed at the level of cases reported but the seemingly low number investigations pursued as a result.

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- In response to concerns from members as to the need to ensure that CSE was being acted on at the correct levels within Haringey, it was noted that for Children's Services, the identification of CSE was embedded in 'business as usual', with referrals being made to children's services from a wide range of partners – including schools, health, police and other agencies. Screening and, where appropriate, assessment take place in the First Response service that includes the Multi Agency Information Sharing Hub (MASH).
- In response to clarification as to the function of MASE, it was noted that the Haringey Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) model was utilised to enable a more strategic partnership approach – sharing information on a case by case basis where CSE was identified as a factor. The MASE meeting provided an opportunity for the identified CSE leads for each agency to come together to:
 - review progress of cases and ensure action was being taken;
 - identify trends and problem locations, taking appropriate action to address issues;
 - consider cross-border issues and co-ordinate with other boroughs;
 - ensure that LAC at risk of CSE, and placed away from Haringey, were being protected by agencies in that area.
- With regard to concerns expressed at the level of police expertise and involvement it was noted that that a CSE team within the Metropolitan Police worked within the Pan London Approach, launched earlier in 2014 to work across 32 London Boroughs, with links with the local MASE, bringing a Pan-London co-ordinated response in addition to local intelligence and actions.
- With regard to clarification as to cases referred to LBH Children's Services, the response to CSE in practice was:
 - i) where there was significant risk of harm and the threshold for Child Protection met, a multi-agency strategy meeting to plan an investigation was convened which would possibly lead to an initial child protection conference and a CP plan. Where CSE emerged as a factor, the case would also be referred to the MASE; and
 - ii) for cases that did not meet the threshold for Child Protection, where CSE emerged as a factor, the case was referred to MASE (currently via Quality Assurance service) with the purpose of multi-agency risk sharing and development of an action plan to address the issues raised across three levels of risk.
- Members were advised that that peer reviews were carried out and the recent pairing of LBH with LB Lambeth, and the outcomes of the review would be collated and lessons learned taken forward.
- It was noted that the recent OFSTED findings had led to a number of recommendations underlining the need to strengthen LBH response to CSE, in summary:
 - better identifying the risk of CSE in assessments;

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- reviewing risks posed to looked after children in response to changing age and stage of life; and
- the need to better shape and target LBH responses to groups of 'hard to reach' young people – including those involved in the criminal justice system – to improve their life chances.

OFSTED provided two recommendations for the LSCB related to CSE:

- to review the CSE multi-agency guidance to incorporate a link to girls and gangs work;
- to accelerate plans to develop and agree the CSE strategy.

An OFSTED thematic inspection on CSE was underway across a number of authorities (not Haringey), and that LBH would reflect on the findings from this and incorporate learning into its plans in due course.

RESOLVED

That the report, and the discussions and bullet points arising from consideration be noted.

CPAC331. HARINGEY VIRTUAL HEAD ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a succinct introduction and briefing to the circulated report from the Interim Director of Children's Services – Tracey Hutchings – head of the Virtual school.

In particular Ms Hutchings highlighted page 5 of the annual report and advised that GCSE results were good at 24%, and higher again over the national average for the previous year which was 16% for 5 A-C inc. English and Maths. Ms Hutchings advised that of the 41 young people in care for the full academic year, 28 had registered end of key stage 2 results and of that 28 10 made better than expected progress (36%) and seven made expected progress (25%). For the 11 (39%) who made less than expected progress the reasons included low attendance at school during years 10 and 11, placed in hospital, secure provision or attending a residential education provision. Also all of the young people who had made expected or better than expected progress (61%) had attended a mainstream school. Many of the young people had been entitled to support through the looked after children pupil premium over the previous three years. This had been used by schools for a variety of support including, tuition, technical equipment and additional activities.

Ms Hutchings referred to page 7 of the annual report and advised that in terms of end of key stage 1 results there were 18 children in care for all of Year 2 (i.e. in care as of Sept 1st 2013 and continued to be in care until the end of the academic year), with LB Haringey achieving in 2 of 3 levels – reading - 83%, Writing 61%, Maths 83%, and overall Level 2 in Reading, Writing and Maths - 56%.

The Committee asked a received clarification to some of the points within the report.

The Chair then summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

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That the report be noted.

CPAC332. OFSTED ACTION PLAN: GETTING TO GOOD

The Chair advised that in respect of the circulated report there was little to add to it and therefore it was for the Committee to note its contents.

Mr Abbey commented that in terms of the action plan there was a great deal to now work upon now that the plan was embedded. Areas such as CSE were far from robust strategies to be effective, but there were a number of positives, which needed to be built on. It was fair to say that there had been a vast improvement in the past 12 months and every effort was being made to aspire to 'good'.

Ms Bhardwaja commented that in terms of the rounded effort of all services to aspire to 'good' it was crucial to ensure that any actions arising from the action plan must be centred on improving outcomes for all children and young people in the Borough.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

CPAC333. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

CPAC334. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil

CPAC335. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

CPAC336. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

Cllr Ann Waters

Chair