

**MINUTES OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 6 JULY 2015**

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

Apologies Councillors Hare, and Weston

Also attending Jon Abbey (Interim Director of Children's Services), Neelam Bhardwaja (Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Social Care), Cath Hogan (Children in Care Service Manager), Lesley Kettles (Children's Service Manager), Annie Walker (Deputy Head of Service – Children & Families), Fiona Smith (Virtual School Head), Philip Slawther (Clerk), Margaret Gallagher (Performance Manager)

CPAC337. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hare.

Apologies were also received from Denise Gandy and Lyn Carrington.

Councillor Weston had to leave early to attend another meeting (at 7pm during the informal meeting with Aspire).

An apology was also received from Cllr Berryman who had to leave early to attend another meeting.

CPAC338. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING WITH ASPIRE

NOTED: The actions listed in the notes of the meeting with Aspire.

In response to a discussion Cllr Waters proposed asking Councillors if they were prepared to offer a day's work experience to young people either in Council care or recent care leavers. The Committee noted that there could be issues with requiring DBS checks. Cllr Waters agreed to raise the issue at Labour Group as well as arrange training for all Members around the role of corporate parents.

Action: Cllr Waters

CPAC339. URGENT BUSINESS

NONE

CPAC340. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE

CPAC341. RATIFICATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED: The committee ratified the terms of the reference for CPAC, as agreed at Cabinet on the 16th June 2015.

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REPORTED: Cllr Waters noted that the Committee needed ensure that its commitment to ensure the voices of disabled children were provided for was monitored effectively. It was agreed to bring a paper back to CPAC on disabled Looked After Children, including who are the disabled Looked After Children and what the issues and challenges were.

Action: Jon Abbey

The Director of Children's Services commented that the Committee needed to develop a Corporate Parenting strategy and agreed to look into developing one, particularly around what the model of good corporate parenting looked like.

Action: Jon Abbey

CPAC341. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2014 were AGREED, as the previous meeting of the Committee on 16th March was not quorate.

The Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Social Care REPORTED that the Borough Commander was leading a task and finish group on missing children and that the findings of this group suggested a cohort of reoccurring cases, often linked to CSE. It was NOTED that a copy of this report would be shared with CPAC once the report had been seen by the LSCB.

Action: Jon Abbey / Neelam Bhardwaja

The minutes of the meeting on the 16th March were also AGREED. The Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Social Care commented that the previous action referred to in the minutes around diversionary activities was not accurate and that the discussion at the time related to developing edge of care panels and targeting support to help keep children out of care. It was AGREED to bring back a report outlining what help was given to young people and their families to help support them whilst maintaining them within their families and communities.

Action: Neelam Bhardwaja

CPAC342. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee NOTED The Corporate Parenting Agenda Plan 2015/16.

CPAC343. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: CHILDREN & FAMILIES

RECEIVED the report on Performance for the Year to May 2015, including summary of 2014/15 year end performance. Report included in the agenda pack (pages 17 to 48).

NOTED in response to discussion:

- The downward trajectory in the number of Looked After Children (LAC), which equated to a 10.6% reduction since March 2014.

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- Permanency was secured for 22% of children who ceased to be Looked After. In April May 2015 there were 6 adoptions and 2 Special Guardianship Orders.
- The downward trajectory of the average amount of time taken for children being placed for adoption. The committee noted significant improvement in performance for this indicator.
- 77 children were placed 20 miles or more from Haringey at the end of March 2015. This equated to 18% against a 16% target but on an improving trajectory. It was acknowledged that 20 miles wasn't a great distance in London. It was agreed that the figures for pan-London performance would be fed back to the Committee.

Action: Margaret Gallagher

- In 2014/15, 92% of LAC had an up to date health assessment, an improvement from the 88% reported the previous year and in line with the London average. 91% of LAC had an up to date dental visit as at 31st March, a significant improvement from 71% performance achieved in the previous year and exceeding both the London and National average.
- There had been an improvement in the number of Personal Education Plans (PEP) being completed since publication of the report with 57% of school aged children having completed and up to date PEP. The Children in Care Service Manager commented that broadly speaking the plans were being developed and interviews had been taking place but that performance in this area was being undermined by a failure to upload the PEP's on to Mosaic. The Committee noted that further management action was being put in place to unblock this issue. It was agreed to bring back PEP performance to the next CPAC meeting.

Action: Cath Hogan / Fiona Smith.

- The Committee noted that 49% of LAC had an up to date (within 6 months) Care Plan at the end of May, down 67% at the end of February. The Committee acknowledged similar issues with the recording of information that were outlined above for the PEP's. In addition, 74% of LAC had a care plan completed within 1 year.
- 78% of Children in Care visits were recorded as completed in the relevant timescales in May. In response to questioning it was reported that there were recoding issues and that officers were looking into capturing the correct frequency for the visit of a child.
- The average care proceedings duration in 2014/15 was 34 weeks with trends towards cases of longer duration than the 26 weeks statutory minimum. It was reported that the government had accepted that the 26 week target was not feasible and, in response to questioning, it was reported that Haringey had a high proportion of cases that were classified as exceptional (deemed by a judge that the case would take longer than 26 weeks due to complicating factors).

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- In response to a question, officers acknowledged that although the number of LAC was decreasing, the rate of the decrease has fallen sharply and that this was partly due to fluctuations in the numbers of LAC. The Committee also noted that a national report released that week stated that CSE cases had risen 35% nationally. Homelessness of young people was also reported as having a significant effect on the number of LAC.
- In response to a question on the number of children missing in care, the Committee noted that this figure tended to increase during the summer holidays. In terms of frequency, officers advised that it was hard to give an accurate figure as a particular individual could go missing on numerous occasions. It was noted that there were currently 5 children missing in care.
- In response to a question on declining performance on care leavers in suitable accommodation, which was down from 78% in 2013/14 to 70% 2014/15, officers acknowledged that the increasing cost of accommodation in London was a significant pressure on care leavers. This was noted as particularly significant when compared to other areas of the country. Officers clarified that care leavers, for the most part would be looking for semi-independent and supported accommodation and that most young people would be eligible to apply for benefits to assist in funding their accommodation needs. The committee noted that problems could occur with sourcing accommodation for young people who lived outside of the borough as those people wouldn't have the same rights of priority in another local authority, but they would be classified as part of Haringey's cohort.

AGREED to note the report.

CPAC344. OFSTED REPORT

RECEIVED the Ofsted Action Plan update that was requested following the report submitted to CPAC in December 2014 on progress against the recommendations from the Ofsted inspection of services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers. The report was included in the agenda pack (pages 49 to 52).

NOTED that

- There were 17 recommendations in the Ofsted report in total, which had been condensed into 7 key actions for CPAC to note.
- Numbers of in-house foster carers had increased, and the numbers of independent fostering agencies (IFA) placements reduced.
- 29% cases where foster carers were successfully approved, their first contact with the Council were attributed to the banners advertising for foster carers that were put up around the borough. The Children's Service Manager

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agreed to speak to NRS about ensuring that banners were in good condition and were suitably attached to their lamppost/railing etc.

• **Action: Leslie Kettles.**

- Pathway plans and life story work were both noted as areas of challenge and the Committee noted that separate action plans had been developed to improve performance.
- Quality Assurance functions had been strengthened to support performance around ensuring LAC were comprehensively assessed, documented and reviewed.
- The role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) had been strengthened.
- A guide book and DVD had been produced to help LAC and care leavers understand their rights and entitlements, including arrangements to access their health records later in life.

AGREED to note the report.

CPAC345. CLARIFY FUNDING FOR ASPIRE MEETINGS

NOTED that funding arrangements for Aspire had been agreed outside of the meeting and that a dedicated budget was in place. Aspire had met with Nina Morgan from Finance to clarify how they process their invoices

CPAC346. ROLE OF CORPORATE PARENT

RECEIVED the Local Government Improvement and Development guide, 10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children, pages 53-74 of tabled the agenda pack.

The Committee agreed that the guide was a useful aide memoir when considering the kind of questions that the Committee and the wider Council should be considering when examining services for Looked After Children. NOTED further to discussion and questions that:

- The previous minutes suggested that schools were not always applying the Pupil Premium Grant and questions were raised about what the Council was doing to change that. Officers responded that the Virtual Schools would manage the grant and they distributed it on a on a term by term basis. Schools had a responsibility to engage with the Virtual School on the issue. The Virtual School Head to feedback on what the figures are around unclaimed Pupil Premium Grants.

Action: Fiona Smith

- The Peer Review that was carried out in conjunction with LB Lambeth was not across all Children's Services, but instead focused on CSE. This took place before Christmas 2014. All of the London Boroughs undertook a peer audit

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which was then sent to the all London Director of Children's Services which will compile an overview report due to be produced for the LSCB.

CPAC347. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CPAC348. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

None.

CPAC 349. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT EXEMPT BUSINESS

None.

CPAC350. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Future meetings

NOTED the following dates:

5 October 2015

5 January 2016

4 April 2016

All meetings are scheduled to start at 6.30pm.

**Cllr Ann Waters
Chair**

The meeting ended at 21:00 hours.