

Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 9 July 2018 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Eliza Mann (Vice-chair)
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Charlie Smith

OFFICER SUPPORT: Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families
Jackie Cook, Head Of Social Work Improvement And Quality Assurance
Dr Stacy John-Legere, Designated Dr for Looked After Children
Angela Brown, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Sophie Gray, Senior Joint Commissioning Officer for Children and Young People
Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Children's and Adults' Services
Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Evelyn Akoto and Sunny Lambe.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed as present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Eliza Mann be elected as the vice-chair of the corporate parenting committee for 2018-19.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

No urgent items were identified.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Jasmine Ali declared an interest with regard to the sufficiency strategy by virtue of her employment as a fostering policy adviser that would cease in the next few days. This was not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

No other disclosures or dispensations were made.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY (2018-2022)

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress made on the sufficiency strategy action plan for 2018-19 be noted.
2. That the development of a dashboard to monitor the impact the sufficiency strategy on the outcomes for our children looked after (CLA) be noted. The following comments on its content as an aide to the work of the corporate parenting committee were made:
 - Link with Sir Martin Narey report and how it relates to this strategy
 - Voice of child and if strategy could be summarised in a one page child friendly version
 - Work needed with communications on the analytics and when adverts appear in the press. Need to ensure logistics in place to deal with queries.

The following queries were raised / discussed:

- Bringing services in-house; it was confirmed that an options paper had been prepared but no decisions yet
- Work with schools and impact of school funding
- Profile of children in care leavers and prediction around growth without intervention
- Foster care recruitment. Recent initiatives (discount on council tax) had resulted in increased interest / recruitment figures
- Funding for unaccompanied children. Confirmed that some of the money allocated but does not cover full cost
- Funding issues for 21 – 25 age group
- Temporary foster care parents. Confirmed that normally friends and family

- Confirmed children leaving care at 18 come under housing band 2 when housing required
 - Advised that officers have been looking at models in respect of short term placements (for example Greenwich Mockingbird project).
3. That a briefing note be brought to the next meeting of the committee on unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people in respect of costs of accommodation (to also address health and education).

8. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

RESOLVED:

That the Independent Review Officers (IRO) Annual Report be noted.

9. OFSTED INSPECTION OF 'SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS' - POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN UPDATE

RESOLVED:

The Designated Doctor for Looked after Children, Dr Stacey John-Legere provided an update to the committee on health assessments being undertaken (out of area), advising that she had been visiting the children and young people at their care placements.

1. That the update on the Southwark Ofsted Single Inspection Framework Action Plan that was endorsed by cabinet on 19 September 2017 at Appendix 1 of the report, and the progress made to date be noted.
2. That it be noted that the judgement for 'children in need of help and protection' should read 'good' in the report.
3. That an update report be received in six months.

10. CHILD PROTECTION PLANS ANALYSIS

RESOLVED:

1. That the report on the increase in the number of child protection subject to plans detailed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report be noted.
2. That officers keep the cabinet member for children, schools and adult care updated on any changes / movements in respect of these figures.

11. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2018-19

RESOLVED:

1. That the work plan for 2018-19 as set out in paragraph 4 of the report be noted.

2. That Appendix 1 to the report (motion being considered by council assembly 11 July 2018) be noted.
3. That the director of children and families arrange for a programme of site visits to be drawn up for members of the corporate parenting committee.
4. That the committee attend a meeting of Speakerbox. Officer to confirm proposed meeting date in October 2018 for the committee to attend.
5. The draft agenda for the next meeting:

5 November

- Southwark Looked after Children Health Annual report 2018-19
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) annual report
- Foster care annual report
- Adoption annual report
- Catch 22 project update
- Briefing note on unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people (accommodation costs, health and education).

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: