

## REGULATORY COMMITTEE

### CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 20 July 2007 at 10:00 am at County Hall, Lewes.

---

PRESENT Councillor Waite (Chairman)  
Councillors Dowling, Elkin, O'Keeffe, St Pierre, Skilton, and Taylor

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Stroude, Lead Member for Children and Families  
Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children Services  
Fiona Johnson, Head of Children's Safeguards  
Beverley Moores, Practice Manager, Short Break and Fostering service  
Robin Muggeridge, Team Leader, Capital Projects, CRD  
Annie Petch, Democratic Services Officer

Chris Makin, Unit Manager, Old Roar House  
Graham Beale, Unit Manager, Rose Cottage and Homefield Cottages  
Martin Sutcliffe, Unit Manager, Lansdowne Secure Unit  
Helen Simmons, Unit Manager, Sorrell Drive  
Anthony Julyan, Operations Manager, Sorrel Drive

#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

1.1 Councillor Waite was elected Chairman.

#### 2. MINUTES

2.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2007 as a correct record.

#### 3. REPORTS

3.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

#### 4. LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

4.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services advising them of inter-agency arrangements in place to safeguard children in East Sussex.

4.2 The Panel was advised that the focus of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is strategic, whereas the Joint Area Review and Ofsted Inspection reports, due to be received in the autumn, will provide a service report.

4.3 The Panel expressed concern at the national democratic deficit in respect of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

4.4 RESOLVED to (1) note the arrangements for the establishment of the Local Safeguarding Children Board in East Sussex and the draft business plan for 2007/08; and

(2) agree to receive annual reports on the Safeguarding Board business plan.

## 5. CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE 2006/07

5.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services advising them of children who have been missing from care.

5.2 RESOLVED to note the number of children who have been missing from their care placements during 2006/07.

## 6. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF EAST SUSSEX DISABILITY SHORT BREAK AND FOSTERING SERVICE: 1 APRIL 2006 TO 31 MARCH 2007

6.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

6.2 The Panel was advised that the primary focus of the service is respite care (short breaks). There are currently 56 carers and a recent advertising campaign on Southern Radio has brought in a lot of enquiries.

6.3 RESOLVED – to note the performance and achievement of the East Sussex Short Break and Fostering Service for this period and endorse the key management priorities:

- To continue to increase the number of households offering short breaks to disabled children
- To increase the number of households able to offer care to children with challenging behaviour and to adolescents
- To encourage carers to apply for Special Guardianship Orders where appropriate
- To promote the use of kinship care for disabled children
- To work closely with other services and agencies, Eg independent fostering agencies to identify suitable resources for those children who have not been linked to a short break and fostering carer
- To maintain a high level of performance, in line with national standards and regulations
- To ensure that issues of diversity and equality are fully integrated into service planning and delivery

## 7. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STATISTICS

7.1 The Panel noted that there had been a drop in the number of looked after children; there has been an increase in the number of children placed with in-house carers which is positive in terms of successful matching. The Panel also noted a dip in the number of children placed for adoption; they were advised that this was normal for this time of year and is related to the number of adoption orders. This quarter there were 3 special guardianship orders processed.

7.2 RESOLVED – to note the statistics.

## 8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

8.1 RESOLVED - to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in category 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual. It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9. YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 19 YEARS LEAVING CARE

9.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services informing them of the progress of young people leaving the care of East Sussex County Council, who became aged 19 years during the period April 2006–March 2007.

9.2 RESOLVED – to 1) congratulate staff on achieving excellent results; and  
2) note the progress outlined in the report.

10. CHILDREN'S HOME REGULATIONS 1991, REGULATION 33: INSPECTION REPORTS

10.1 The Panel considered inspection reports for March, April and May 2007 for the following children's homes:

- (i) Acorns and Lansdowne (Dorset Road)
- (ii) The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive
- (iii) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (iv) Old Roar Children's Home
- (v) Homefield Cottages
- (vi) Rose Cottage

10.2 RESOLVED – to note the reports.