

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 24 July 2009 at 10:00am at County Hall, Lewes.

PRESENT Councillors Gadd, Hughes, Livings, O’Keeffe, Ost, St Pierre and Waite

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Mrs Stroude, Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families
Councillor Elkin, Lead Cabinet Member for Learning and School Effectiveness

Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children’s Services
Alistair McGrory, Operations Manager 11 Plus
Annie Petch, Democratic Services Officer

Josh and Louise, Members of Children in Care Council
Timothy Wallinger, Placement Support Worker

Graham Beale, Unit Manager, Broderick House and Homefield Cottages
Anthony Julyan, Operations Manager, Sorrell Drive
Chris Makin, Unit Manager, Hazel Lodge and Rose Cottage
Helen Simmons, Unit Manager, Sorrell 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 24 April 2009 as a correct record.

3. REPORTS

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

4. CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

4.1 Josh and Louise, Members of Children in Care Council (CICC) attended the meeting and advised the Panel that during the previous 6 months the Children in Care Council had:

- Signed the CICC Pledge;
- Requested that their Personal Education Plans be redesigned to include more pictures and were more interesting;
- Arranged a car-wash event in Lewes and Eastbourne to raise money for Water Aid and Smile Train charities;
- Agreed a balance of pocket money that looked after children received;
- Established links with other groups;
- Sought clarification for use of photographs of looked after children used in the media;
- Met regularly once a month.

The Panel was advised that the aspirations of the Children in Care Council for the next 6 months were to:

- Consult widely on opportunities for children with disabilities;
- Recruit new members to the CiCC;

- Hold another charity day;
- Hold joint meetings with West Sussex and representatives from France;
- Work to achieve Keystone Awards;
- Produce a newsletter for the CICC first birthday;
- Create more work experience opportunities for Looked After Children.

4.2 RESOLVED to (1) thank the members of the Children in Care Council for their hard work and for attending the Panel meeting to update Members;

(2) request whether a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel could attend a Children In Care Council meeting at some point in the future; and

(3) extend an open invitation for members of the Children in Care Council to attend Corporate Parenting Panel meetings.

5. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

5.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which requested comments on the draft report before submission to Cabinet.

5.2 RESOLVED to (1) note and endorse the contents for submission to the Cabinet on 23 September 2009;

(2) request that the word 'less' be replaced with 'fewer' in paragraph 4.13; and

(3) add an explanation of 'placed with own parents' in section 1 – Placement Data.

6. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STATISTICS

6.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which outlined changes to the statistics in the last quarter.

6.2 RESOLVED to note the report

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

7.1 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.

8. YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 19 YEARS LEAVING CARE

8.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which informed of the progress and current situations of young people leaving the care of East Sussex County Council, who became aged 19 years during the period April 2008-March 2009.

8.2 RESOLVED to note the report.

9. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS

9.1 The Panel considered the following Ofsted Inspection Reports:

- Homefield Cottage

- Lansdowne Secure Unit
- The Bungalow, Sorrell Drive

9.2 RESOLVED note the inspection reports

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

10.1 The Panel considered inspection reports for March, April and May 2009 for the following children's homes:

- (i) Broderick House
- (ii) Acorns at Lansdowne
- (iii) Hazel Lodge
- (iv) Homefield Cottages
- (iii) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (iv) Rose Cottage
- (v) The Bungalow, Sorrell Drive

10.2 RESOLVED – to (1) note the reports; and

(2) request that all reports are signed by the Independent Regulation

33 Visitor.