

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 23 October 2009 at 10:00am at County Hall, Lewes.

PRESENT Councillors Waite (Chairman), Belsey, O'Keeffe, Ost, and St Pierre

ALSO PRESENT Helen Davies, Deputy Director, Children and Families
Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children Services
Annie Leathes, Democratic Services Officer
Adrian Money, Virtual Head Teacher

Janet Osborne, Unit Manager, Acorns, 130 Dorset Road
Denise Pead, Deputy Manager, Homefield Cottage
Diane Saunders, Deputy Manager, Hazel Lodge
Helen Simmons, Unit Manager, Sorrell Drive
Martin Sutcliffe, Unit Manager, Lansdowne Secure Unit

10. MINUTES

10.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2009 as a correct record.

11. REPORTS

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

12. APOLOGIES

12.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Hughes and Councillor Livings.

13. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

13.1 The Chairman advised the Panel that this was the last meeting the Deputy Director, Children and Families would be attending as she was leaving the Council to take up a new post with Kent County Council. The Chairman thanked the Deputy Director for all the excellent work she had done for the Council and for her support to the Panel and wished her every success in her new role.

14. VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

14.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which reported on the education results for looked after children, and outlined the priorities for 2009/10. Adrian Money, Virtual Head Teacher was present to answer questions.

14.2 The Panel was advised that the virtual school was in the process of developing a draft prospectus which would include a new name, a set of values and aims and a web presence for the school. Mr Money confirmed he would present the draft proposal at a future meeting to consult Panel members.

14.3 RESOLVED to (1) note and endorse the contents of the report.

(2) receive a report at a future meeting on the proposed new identity of the virtual school.

15. ANNUAL REPORT LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

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

15.2 RESOLVED to note the annual report on the Local Safeguarding Children Board business plan.

16. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STATISTICS

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

16.2 RESOLVED to note the report.

17. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

17.1 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.

18. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS

18.1 The Panel considered the following Ofsted Inspection Reports:

- Brodrick House
- Rose Cottage
- Hazel Lodge
- Acorns

18.2 RESOLVED to note the inspection reports.

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

19.1 The Panel considered inspection reports for June, July and August 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

19.2 RESOLVED to note the reports.