

## REGULATORY COMMITTEE

### CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 15 July 2011 at 10.00am  
at County Hall, Lewes

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PRESENT: Councillors Stroude (Chairman), Hughes, Ost, Pragnell and Waite

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Belsey, Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Councillor David Simmons, West Sussex County Council  
Ms Jill Dyson, West Sussex County Council

Mr Fred Livings, East Sussex Foster Care Association  
Mr Barry Cullen, National Care Advisory Service

Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children (LAC) Services  
Anna Brookes, Care Leaver Co-Ordinator  
Janet Fairless, RHM Brodrick House and Homefield Cottage  
Anthony Julyan, Operations Manager, Children's Disability Services  
Janet Osborne, RHM, Acorns  
Jane Sambrook, Lansdowne Secure Unit  
Nicky Scott, RHM, Hazel Lodge and Rose Cottage  
Helen Simmons, RHM, Sorrel Drive

#### 11. MINUTES

11.1 RESOLVED - to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2011 as a correct record. .

#### 12. APOLOGIES

12.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O'Keeffe and St Pierre.

#### 13. REPORTS

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

#### 14. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION

14.1 The Panel received a report from Mr Fred Livings, Chairman of the East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESCFA), who presented the Association's "Building Brighter Futures" Action Plan. Mr Livings outlined the three stakeholder groups his organisation is concerned with: People who foster, Children in care and Children who care.

14.2 With regard to People who foster Mr Livings set out that ESFCA's role is to support fosterers in a difficult role, to which end an annual conference and monthly surgeries are organised, with speakers and regular contact with Social Services staff and other fosterers.

14.3 With regard to Children in care ESFCA organises activities to expand the children's range of fun and happy experiences, such as a pantomime and Christmas party, weekend events and residential camps at venues such as Little Canada on the Isle of Wight.

14.4 In respect of Children who care Mr Livings stressed that a fostering arrangement involved the whole of the family, and so ESFCA arranges activities for the children of host families.

14.5 Mr Livings set out to the Panel that funding issues were acute, and that the Association would have to begin looking at reducing the services they provide, and that the priorities are raising the profile of the charity and securing a patron for ESFCA.

14.6 The Panel discussed the work of the Association including potential sources of support, the provision of luggage, increasing media interest and the "Ready for Success" scheme which prepares young people in care for work.

14.7 RESOLVED to note the report, and to thank the East Sussex Foster Care Association for all their work.

## 15. YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

15.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding the "From Care2Work" project, and heard from Barry Cullen of the National Care Advisory Service who presented the national picture.

15.2 Anna Brookes, Care Leaver Co-Ordinator, set out that the role of the local authority was to provide opportunities for young people in care to aspire and to improve transition from care to being in work. This was to be achieved by a combination of the Virtual School, secondary schools and the Care Leaving Team, together with employer partners.

15.3 Barry Cullen provided a history of the From Care2Work scheme and the successes achieved by the project in securing partners in the hotel, sports and public service industries. Resources produced by the scheme include an Employability Guide to assist care-leavers and a Quality Mark for employers, to demonstrate their commitment to young people in care. Pre-employment support, such as driving lessons, apprenticeships and work experience were outlined.

15.4 The Panel discussed the scheme, Work Pairing, the need to find more employers to become involved, LEARN

15.5 RESOLVED to note and welcome the information contained in the report, and the enthusiasm of the staff involved.

## 16. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STATISTICS

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

16.2 Members attention was drawn, in particular, to the continuing rise in the number of children admitted to care, and the continuing efforts of the Service to engage the judiciary with their concerns.

16.3 RESOLVED - to note the information contained in 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. CHILDREN'S HOME REGULATIONS 1991, REGULATION 33: INSPECTION REPORTS

18.1 The Panel considered Regulation 33 Reports for April 2011 for the following children's homes:

- (i) Acorns at Dorset Road
- (ii) Brodrick House
- (iii) Hazel Lodge
- (iv) Homefield Cottage
- (v) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (vi) Rose Cottage
- (vii) The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

18.2 RESOLVED - to note the reports.