

## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 30 January 2015 at County Hall, Lewes

---

PRESENT: Councillors O’Keeffe, St Pierre (Chair), Sheppard, Tidy and Whetstone

ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children’s Services  
Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Safeguarding, LAC and Youth Justice  
Anna Brookes, Head of School and Education, Employment and Training Coordinator  
Sally Carnie, Head of Looked After Children Services  
Stuart McKeown, School Appeals Manager  
Hannah Matthews, Democratic Services Officer  
Claire Padgham, Practice Manager, Adoption and Permanence

Anthony Julyan, Operations Manager, Children’s Disability Service  
Janet Fairless, RHM Brodrick House and Homefield Cottage  
Denise Pead, Deputy Manager Homefield Cottage  
Nicky Scott, Operations Manager, LAC Services  
Helen Simmons, RHM Sorrel Drive and Acorns

### 21. MINUTES

21.1 RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2014 as a correct record.

### 22. APOLOGIES

22.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charlton and Clark. It was noted that Councillor Whetstone was acting as a substitute for Councillor Galley.

22.2 Apologies were also received from Nigel Hewett, RHM at Lansdowne Secure Unit and Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of LAC Services.

### 23. REPORTS

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

### 24. URGENT ITEMS

24.1 Councillor St Pierre requested information regarding any Looked After Children who were attending St Mary’s Special School in Bexhill, following recent media coverage. It was confirmed that there are currently no LAC at the School.

### 25. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

25.1 RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following two items on the agenda 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 was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

## 26. OFSTED REPORTS

25.1 The Panel was informed of the Children's Services Department's progress in discussions with Ofsted regarding recent reports.

26.2 The Panel considered reports received from Ofsted on the following services:

- (a) Acorns at Dorset Road
- (b) Hazel Lodge
- (c) Homefield Cottage
- (d) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (e) The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

26.3 RESOLVED to note the reports.

## 27. CHILDREN'S HOMES REGULATIONS 1991, REGULATION 33: INSPECTION REPORTS

27.1 The Panel considered Regulation 33 Reports for September, October and November 2014 for the following Children's Homes:

- (a) Acorns at Dorset Road
- (b) Brodrick House
- (c) Hazel Lodge
- (d) Homefield Cottage
- (e) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (f) The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

27.2 Each Registered Home Manager gave a brief oral update on activity at the home covering the inspection period and bringing the Panel up to date.

27.3 RESOLVED to note the written and oral reports.

## 28. SPECIALIST ADOPTION CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (ADCAMHS)

28.1 The Panel considered a report and presentation by the Director of Children's Services which set out the work of the Specialist Adoption Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (AdCAMHS). A video presenting the voices and opinions of adopted children was played to the Panel by Clare Padgham, Practice Manager, Adoption and Permanence .

28.2 The Panel discussed: the use of Pupil Premium Plus and means of applying for it; the range of support available to families through the AdCAMHS Service, for them to choose from; the scale of the project, with 50 open cases helping 31 children; the positive relationship with the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; and responsibility for adopted children who move into the County.

28.3 It was agreed that the work of the Service should be presented to the East and West Adoption Panels at a suitable business meeting.

28.4 RESOLVED to note the report and presentation.

29. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL (ESCC) CARE LEAVERS' EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT

29.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the Care to Work project, and the County Council's corporate responsibility to prepare care leavers for the world of work. Anna Brookes highlighted the work of the Personnel and Training team in supporting the project, together with the opportunities identified for work experience placements, internships and apprenticeships. She reported that currently 22 young people were at university and 70% of careleavers were in training and education at Year 13.

29.2 The Panel discussed: the need to address each young person's circumstances individually, to maximise the chances of a successful placement; the range of opportunities across the County, with an increasing number of participants; the need to lower barriers to care leavers accessing opportunities to develop their employability; and the role of schools in providing Information, Advice and Guidance to school leavers.

29.3 RESOLVED to (1) note the report; and  
(2) request an update at a future Panel meeting.

30. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) STATISTICS

30.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which outlined the changes to the Looked After Children (LAC) statistics in the last quarter. Liz Rugg, Assistant Director Safeguarding, LAC and Youth Justice explained that the statistics represented a snapshot of the activity of the Service and that additional children also come in and out of care during the month.

30.2 Members' attention was drawn to: the overall downward trend in the number of looked after children; the efforts being made to safely reduce the number of agency placements without disrupting stable placements; the financial commitment of the County Council to Special Guardianship Orders, which can be applied for by the Council or by parents; the rise in number of some subsets of LAC being attributable to legislation changes by which a child becomes looked after when remanded or convicted; and the services available to children whose parent has been sent to prison.

30.3 RESOLVED to note the report.