

Time Commenced: - 6.00 pm  
Time Finished: - 6.56 pm

## **CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMISSION 22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Present: Councillors Bolton, Ginns and Latham

### **01/08 Appointment of Chair**

Councillor Bolton was appointed as Chair of the Sub-Commission.

### **02/08 Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **03/08 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

### **04/08 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **05/08 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted by the Commission.

### **06/08 Call-In**

There were no items.

## **Items for Discussion**

### **07/08 Statistical Information on Looked After Children**

The Sub Commission considered a report from the Director of Children and Young People on Statistical Information on Looked After Children. The statistical information would be updated for future Commission meetings to assist councillors in fulfilling their corporate parenting role.

Members raised concerns that the statistical information provided was not a running record. It was reported that in future the statistical information could be provided at the scheduled meeting to ensure that members of the Commission had the most up to date information.

It was noted that 70% of children looked after were with Derby City

Council foster carers. All placements within the City were currently full and carers were always encouraged to be flexible. Ideally there would be a 12-14% vacancy gap but unfortunately the department has not been in this position for 15 years.

Members asked if the children's home were full where children were placed. It was reported that there were various categories, 75% of the time children were admitted to the Council's own foster carers but if there were problems, back up arrangements were in place to use children's homes in the private sector.

**Resolved to note the appendix of the report, which gave statistical information on children looked after and the relevant key performance indicators.**

## 08/08 Update on the Maintenance work on Children's Homes

The Commission considered a verbal update report from the Assistant Director – Specialist Services on the maintenance work on Children's homes. It was reported that a detailed report would come to the December meeting of the Sub Commission detailing the Service Level Agreement between the Children and Young People Department and Property Services. It was noted that initial surveys had been carried out at 2 of the children's home and the remaining homes would be visited within the next 5 weeks. There would be a lot of work carried out on the homes to ensure that they had a reasonable life expectancy. A condition report of each home would be in the detailed report.

**Resolved to note the update, and receive a detailed report to the next scheduled meeting of the Sub Commission.**

## 09/08 Residential Inspection and Regulation 33 Summary Report

The Commission considered a report from Director of Children and Young People on Residential Inspection and Regulation 33 Summary Report. The Children's Homes Regulations 2001 required children's homes to be inspected by a regulatory inspector of Ofsted, which was the regulatory body responsible for registering homes. Inspectors carry out at least one inspection a year and make additional visits from time to time if necessary. They write a report of their visit which contains requirements and recommendations for the registered provider, the Council, to act on. The registered provider responds to the findings and produces an action plan. Inspections were based on national minimum standards for children's homes which were grouped to reflect the five outcomes for children defined in Every Child Matters.

Inspections have been carried out at Moorfield on 24 June, Coronation Avenue on 21 February, Bute Walk on 1 May, Queensferry Gardens on 3

June and Cricklewood Road on 16 June 2008.

Members requested that they were involved in visiting the homes as members of the Sub Commission to gain a further understanding of the lives in the homes. It was suggested that a member from the Sub Commission visit the home accompanied by a relevant ward member. It was noted that it was important to speak to as many residents as possible during the visit and to provide feedback to officers about the issues raised.

**Resolved to note the report and arrange members' visits at the next scheduled meeting of the Sub Commission.**

MINUTES END