

Time Commenced: - 6.30 pm  
Time Finished: - 8.40 pm

## **CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMISSION TUESDAY 4 JULY 2006**

Chair: Councillor Macdonald  
Present: Councillors Higginbottom, Ginns, Marshall and Turner  
In attendance: Councillor Allen

### **01/06 Appointment of Chair**

It was agreed to appoint Councillor Macdonald as Chair for the 2006/07 municipal year.

### **02/06 Appointment of Vice Chair**

It was agreed to appoint Councillor Williams as the Vice Chair for the 2006/07 municipal year.

### **03/06 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Williams.

### **04/06 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

### **05/06 Declarations of Interest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Councillor Macdonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College
	Personal	Member of National Union of Teachers
Councillor Higginbottom	Personal	Vice Chair of Governors – Ashgate Primary School
Councillor Ginns	Personal	Volunteer Youth Worker

## 06/06 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Commission – 11 April 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

## 07/06 Call – In

There were no items.

## 08/06 Inspection and Management Visits to Children's Homes

The Sub Commission considered a report from the Director for Children and Young People that gave details of the outcomes of the latest inspections and management visits to Children's Homes throughout Derby.

Members were informed that the homes were assessed and scored against 35 standards, details were presented in the report.

It was noted that all homes had demonstrated a steady improvement on earlier inspections, due to service improvements across all homes. These improvements included new systems for administration and recording of medicines, and changes to the way complaints and allegations of abuse were dealt with.

Councillor Higginbottom asked to what extent the homes lost points due to health and safety issues. It was noted that maintaining the standards of the buildings of the homes was challenging as young people often damage the property during difficult times. This was an area within the standards where Derby didn't score highly, although this year had improved in comparison to previous years.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 09/06 Statistical Information on Children Looked After

The Sub Commission considered a report from the Director for Children and Young People that provided statistical information on children looked after.

The statistical evidence presented in the report set out details of progress made towards the Council's objective of healthy, safe and independent communities.

**Resolved to note the report and the statistical information contained in appendix 2.**

## 10/06 Fostering Service Report

The Sub Commission considered a report from the Director for Children and Young People that detailed the activity of the Derby City Fostering Service. The Fostering Panel met 24 times between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006. During this period the service responded to 224 requests for new foster placements, which was an increase of 18 from last year.

It was reported that there had been little change since last year. There had been an increase of three carers and a loss of 34 carers over the year. The reasons for the resignations was mainly due to work commitments or personal reasons, although five carers had retired during the year.

It was noted that a main concern was that payment for carers did not match the amount that independent agencies offer, which takes prospective carers away from the Council's fostering service. It was reported that the Council's payments had improved on previous years but there was still a significant financial gap. The Service was currently trying to address this issue.

Councillor Higginbottom suggested that in future the report should include the number of carers that continue to support young people after they reach the age of 18 years.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. that the Fostering Service continues to provide an annual report for period from 1 April to 31 March and reviews the Statement of Purpose as required by the Fostering Service Regulations 2002.**
- 2. that a monthly highlights report be produced to track key indicators of performance.**
- 3. to note the work and developments of the Fostering Service as outlined in the report.**

Minutes End