

# ITEM 4

Time commenced - 6.00pm  
Time finished - 8.19pm

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2010

Present: Councillors Bolton, Davis, Higginbottom, Radford, Tuplin,  
Whitby and F Winter  
In attendance: Councillor Williams

### 38/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Berry.

### 39/10 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

### 40/10 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Whitby declared a personal interest as he was a Derby City Council approved foster carer.

### 41/10 Call-in

There were no items.

## Items for Discussion

### 42/10 Briefing on the Children Looked After Service

The Commission received a report from the Strategic Director for Children and Young people on the main issues relating to the Children Looked After Service in Derby City Council. The Commission were informed that Derby currently had more than 450 children in care and that during the last 3 years this had increased by approximately 10%. It was noted that this was a comparable increase with other Local Authorities and Derby was doing well in terms of the number of children it placed for adoption.

Members raised concerns about the recruitment and support of foster carers. It was noted that people wishing to become foster carers were required to undergo a stringent assessment and training programme to establish whether they met the National Minimum Standards under the Fostering Regulations

2002. Once approved foster carers were expected to complete the Children's Workforce Development Council Induction Programme.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People reported that there was review of the fostering allowance carried out in 2007 which brought the allowance they received in line with independent fostering.

The Commission noted that there were five children's homes in the City. Members discussed the different structures across the homes but paid particular attention to the support provided to the young people once they left the homes.

Members were provided with the performance measures across the National Indicators for 2009/10. Each indicator had a tag line attached providing the Commission with details on how the authority compared to other comparator authorities.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **43/10      Topic Review**

The Commission considered a report from the Strategic Director for Resources on the Commission's Topic Review. At the last meeting of the Commission, Members had asked for a scoping report to be written regarding what was being done to encourage schools to open their facilities, out of school hours, to the public for community use.

Members thanked the officer for the report, but the Commission felt that this issue could be addressed by an officer attending a future meeting to discuss any concerns as there were more pressing issues that could be looked at for a topic review.

The Commission suggested that a worthwhile topic review would be to look at issues related to the National Indicator 58, Emotional and behavioural health of children in care. Members suggested that they could look at how our partners were helping to improve mental health issues for Children in Care.

**Resolved:**

- 1) To request a scoping report be written for a topic review looking at 'How Derby City Council and Partners are helping to improve the mental health of Children Looked After' and;**
- 2) To delegate responsibility for approval of the scoping report to the Chair and Vice Chair and;**
- 3) To request a report to a future meeting regarding the sporting activities which take place out of hours in local schools.**

## **44/10      Work Programme**

The Commission considered a report from the Strategic Director for Resources on the Work Programme. It was reported that a number of

suggestions had been made by Members covering a range of areas they wished to review in the coming year.

Members agreed the work programme as set out in the report subject to receiving an additional item on the academy application by Chellaston School, at which the Headteacher and Chair of Governors were to be invited.

**Resolved to note the report and the additional item.**

MINUTES END