

Time Commenced: - 6.00 pm
Time Finished: - 7.20 pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMISSION TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2006

Chair: Councillor Macdonald
Present: Councillors Higginbottom, Hird, Marshall and Turner
In attendance: Councillor Wynn

26/05 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E Berry.

27/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

28/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

29/05 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Joint Sub-Commission

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2005 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

30/05 Integrating Children's Services

A brief update was provided on the progress being made in the integration of Children's social care with Education services. Three AD posts were in place with the acting position to be resolved shortly.

Area Panel 1 had been selected as the Trail Blazer for area and neighbourhood working and would roll out integrated children's services including extended schools, local health priorities by September.

31/05 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.

Councillor Turner suggested that the statistics should also include number

of children entering and leaving the service to give a more comprehensive picture.

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

32/05 The Education of Children Looked After (Gatsby Project)

The Sub Commission considered a report from the Director for Children and Young People that detailed the educational attainment of Children Looked After in the 2004/05 academic year.

It was reported that the current grant of £292,280 from the Gatsby Foundation would be expiring in October 2006. The Education budget for 2006/07 contained an additional £43,000 to cover the withdrawal of external funding for the Project. Members welcomed the recognition by the Council Cabinet of the importance of the team to improve outcomes of Children Looked after and the positive steps taken by the Council cabinet to make the service mainstream. It was noted that no provision had been agreed by Social Services during the 2006/07 budget process for additional costs.

Councillor Wynn gave his praise for the Gatsby Project team, who he considered had worked brilliantly over the last three years.

Councillor Turner expressed his pleasure at the success of the project and the achievement of imbedding criteria into the mainstream.

Resolved

- 1. To express thanks to the Gastby Project Team for their work with Children looked After.**
- 2. To thank the Council Cabinet for finding resources to continue with the successful work of the Gatsby Project**
- 3. To note the conference 'Success for Children in Public Care' would be held 6 October 2006 at Mackworth Enterprise Centre.**

33/05 Adoption Agency Report

The Sub Commission considered a report from the Director for Children and Young People that provided information on the activity of the Derby Adoption Agency.

It was reported that the Derby Adoption Agency has developed services to meet the needs of children for whom adoption is in their best interest. The Agency also provided services to meet the needs of adults including

adoptive parents, birth families and adopted adults.

It was reported that between April 2005 and March 2006 22 children were placed for adoption and 30 placements had been made.

Resolved

- 1. to agree that the Adoption Agency should continue to provide Agency Reports from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 and review the Statement of Purpose as required in the Adoption Minimum Standards**
- 2. to produce a monthly highlights report to track key indicators of performance**
- 3. to request that the Agency continue to develop adoption support services in line with the National Adoption Standards**
- 4. to note the work and developments of the Adoption Agency as outlined in the report**

34/05 Future Agenda Items

The Sub Commission considered a verbal report in order to agree on future agenda items.

The Sub Commission agreed to discuss the following at their next meeting in July 2006:

- Statistical report**
- Outcome external inspection**
- Regulation 33 report**

During the discussion on this agenda item, Members discussed the important role played by the Sub Commission in supporting the Council to continue to be a good corporate parent. Members request the Scrutiny Management Commission to recommend to the Council the establishment of a sub Commission in any new structure for overview and scrutiny to assist the Council in fulfilling its responsibility for Children Looked After.

Minutes End