

Time Commenced: - 6.00 pm
Time Finished: - 7.00 pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMISSION TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2006

Chair: Councillor Macdonald
Present: Councillors Ginns and Williams

19/06 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Higginbottom.

20/06 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following item:

Consultation of Care Matters

The Sub Commission received a presentation from Hazel Lymbery – Head of Partnership, Performance and Participation - on the consultation on care matters and transforming the lives of children and young people in care. It was reported that the Green Paper was very much welcomed by the Children and Young People Services department.

The Sub Commission were advised that specific key issues included increasing the number and quality of foster carers, a choice of high quality placements and preventative action for children on the edge of care.

It was reported that the closing date for responses to the consultation was 15 January 2007, therefore any comments should be submitted to Keith Woodthorpe – Assistant Director – Specialist Services - by 10 January 2007.

Resolved to note the report.

21/06 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of Interest	Reason
Councillor Macdonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College
	Personal	Member of National Union of Teachers
	Personal	Adoption Panel Member

Councillor Ginns	Personal	Volunteer Youth Worker
------------------	----------	------------------------

22/06 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Commission – 5 September 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

23/06 Call – In

There were no items.

24/06 Statistical Information on Children Looked After

The Commission received a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People which provided the Sub-Commission with statistical information on Children Looked After.

Hazel Lymbery reported that as of 1 December 2006 the number of Children Looked After was 390 and although ideally the number would have come down, it had not risen from August 2006.

Councillor Williams asked if the possibility of placing children at boarding schools had been looking into. Hazel Lymbery responded that the Council had been consulted by the Dfes earlier in the year and that there were a great range of possibilities. She considered that a draw back of homing children at boarding school was that it was only for 38 weeks of the year.

Councillor Williams asked if all of the children's homes were fully occupied. Hazel Lymbery responded that they were all currently full, although ideally there would be a couple of spaces available.

Councillor Williams asked who would be financially responsible if a child was required to be placed in secure accommodation. Hazel Lymbery responded that if this was a remand placement, this would initially be paid for by the Youth Justice Board.

Resolved to note the report.

Minutes End