

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm

Time finished – 7.25pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD 11 FEBRUARY 2014

Present: Councillor Bailey (Chair)
Councillors Allen, Bolton, Hillier, S Khan, Whitby and Williams

In attendance: Councillor Rawson

35/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atwal and Campbell.

36/13 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

37/13 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Whitby declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) because he was a council foster carer. However, as there were no items on the agenda which were likely to result in consideration of matters which would directly affect foster carers, it was agreed that the DPI, while relevant to the sub board's terms of reference, would be unlikely to result in a conflict of interest at this meeting.

38/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

39/13 Narrowing the Attainment Gap

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on narrowing the attainment gaps between pupils from deprived backgrounds and their peers. The report was presented by the Interim Head of CIC Regulated Services and the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding attended to answer any questions raised. The Board raised several questions on the report which could not be answered by the officers present.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation;**

2. **to request that a members of the Board with specific questions submit these to the Scrutiny and Civic Services Manager to be collated and provided to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People;**
3. **to receive a report responding to the questions at the next meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Board**

40/13 Fostering Services

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on National minimum standards for foster carers

Resolved to support the Fostering Agency report

41/13 Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on proposals to improve performance on the recruitment and retention of foster carers. This was presented by the Interim Head of CIC Regulated Services and supported by a presentation.

It was acknowledged that a consultant had been brought into the service area to look at performance figures and ways of marketing the fostering service to potential carers. Councillor Bailey asked if a report could be prepared in six months' time detailing the progress figures.

Resolved to receive a report on the impact of marketing on the recruitment and retention of foster carers at a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board at the earliest available meeting from October 2014

42/13 Computer and Internet Access for Children in Care

A report was received from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People detailing issues around internet access provided to children in care and the council's role as a corporate parent to ensure children in care were protected while still being able to access the internet. Children in care had raised concerns, both formally and informally stating that they felt disadvantaged,

Resolved to recommend that in reviewing the protection software, the ICT department take account of the need to:

- 1 **Ensure any solution remains accessible to the children while offering appropriate protection; and**
- 2 **Make provision for the accommodation of individual needs of users rather than applying a single solution across all children in care.**

Councillor Rawson left during consideration of this item.

43/13 Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes

A report was received from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People detailing how children's homes were regulated and inspected by Ofsted.

Councillor Bolton reported an error on page 3, paragraph 4.8 where Councillor Repton's name had been recorded when it was actually Councillor Rawson that had attended the visit.

It was acknowledged that standards are constantly being raised and that the council was meeting these. In response to a query on how recommendations resulting from regulation 33 visits by officers were being recorded and monitored the board was informed that these are statutory reports which are routinely reported to DfE.

Resolved to request that reports submitted by council officers under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 be made available to members of the board electronically.

MINUTES END