

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.50pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD
25 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Present: Councillors Bailey, Campbell J Khan, Whitby, Williams and
F Winter

01/12 Appointment of Chair

**Resolved to appoint Councillor Bailey as Chair for the remainder of the
Municipal Year.**

02/12 Appointment of Vice Chair

**Resolved to appoint Councillor Whitby as Vice Chair for the remainder of the
Municipal Year.**

03/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atwal, Bolton and Martin.

04/12 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

05/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**06/12 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission
held on 27 March 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2012 were noted.

07/12 Children in Care Council

The Board considered a report which set out information on Derby's Children in Care Council (CiCC). The Lead Officer Diane Cook attended the meeting to update the Board on the CiCC's priorities for the year.

Several Members of the Board indicated that they would like to attend a meeting of the CiCC. They would need to think about why they were attending and what they and the young people would get out of them attending. It was also suggested that a CiCC representative be invited to attend a meeting of the Board.

It was noted that the Pledge was going to be signed on 10 October 2012 and that posters would be widely circulated.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report and update.**
- 2. To ask the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to arrange for Members of the Board to attend a meeting of the CiCC and to invite a CiCC representative to attend a meeting of the Board.**

08/12 Care Leavers

The Board received a presentation on the Leaving Care Service. The service supported around 150 young people with practical skills for living in the community including, finances, benefits, housing options access and advice and education and training options. Members of the Board were concerned that young people were not allowed to fail financially and that they be prepared for the reality of living independently.

It was noted that there were ten funded mentoring places for young people leaving care and there were currently seven places taken up. It was suggested that consideration be given to seeing if any Councillors or employees would be able to help with mentoring.

Resolved to consider mentoring as corporate parents.

09/12 Ofsted Reports on Children's Homes Visited This Municipal Year

The Board considered a report which stated that children's homes were subject to one full inspection and one interim inspection by Ofsted each year. Ofsted issued a revised inspection framework, including evaluation schedules, grade descriptors and guidance for inspectors on 1 April 2012 to drive an improvement in standards of care and management.

The report covered the most recent full inspection at each home. The five inspections included were the first to have been carried out since the inspection framework was revised. In three cases the revised inspection framework had resulted in a lower grade than at the previous inspection.

Following each inspection an action plan was written to ensure the requirements were complied with and managers were working with staff groups to improve performance and understanding of the inspection framework.

Everyday needed to be treated as an inspection day. Most of the issues raised were not about the quality of care but about recording issues. Following inspections action plans were put into place to address any issues raised.

There had been a lot of focus on operation Kern particularly in relation to safeguarding. Mark Barratt explained that the Safeguarding Board had a sub group particularly focusing on exploitation and this had linked into operation Kern. It was noted that the majority of the young people exploited were not in care but some had come into care because of the exploitation.

Resolved to note the report.

10/12 Children Looked After Statistics

The Board considered a report which stated that at the end of March 2012 the total number of looked after children was 480. This was an increase of 4% compared with the previous year.

The profile of looked after children remained consistent with the position reported to the Board in March 2012 with the largest proportion of children in care being aged 12 years and over, white, British male and almost half had been looked after for less than two years. There had been some improvements recorded in the outcomes for looked after children, particularly in relation to care leavers. The position at the end of quarter one 2012/13 indicated that the number of looked after children had stabilised with a position of 476 (89 per 10,000 population).

It was suggested that a performance surgery be held to consider the reasons behind the high numbers of external placements for foster care.

This could be considered as part of the care home review. Items to be considered included:

- Teeth being checked by a dentist
- Recruitment of foster carers
- The numbers of children going into care
- External foster care

It was also suggested that a letter be sent to link governors to remind them about their responsibility in relation to personal education plans.

Resolved

- 1. To arrange a performance surgery to consider the reasons behind the high numbers of external placements for foster carers;**
- 2. to include the following in the Care Home Review:**
 - Teeth being checked by a dentist
 - Recruitment of foster carers
 - The numbers of children going into care
 - External foster care; and
- 3. to request the Director of Specialist Services to write to link governors to remind them about their legal responsibility in relation to personal education plans.**

11/12 Visits to Children's Homes

The Board considered a report which stated that as part of fulfilling their role as Corporate Parents, Councillors made visits to Children's Homes on a regular basis. The report set out the timetable for these visits for the forthcoming year. A protocol for visiting Children's Homes was agreed last year and set out how the reports from Councillors would be monitored.

In addition to the Councillor visits, all Children's Homes were subject to monitoring visits on behalf of the registered provider under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations. The Board was asked to consider how they wished to review these reports. The Board was also asked to decide how it wished to review and monitor progress against the Children's Homes Ofsted reports.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. to receive copies of the Regulation 33 reports;**
- 3. to review progress against the actions plans arraign from Ofsted reports; and**
- 4. to amend the protocol for visits to Children's Homes to include the line 'Members attending visits receive the most recent Ofsted report with the visits information pack'.**

12/12 Meeting Dates

The Board considered a report which stated that the Children and Young People Board at its meeting on 26 June 2012 had asked that meetings of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board be held bi-monthly. The report suggested that 4 December 2012 be added to the schedule of meetings for the Sub Board.

Resolved to add 4 December 2012 to the Sub Boards schedule of meetings for 2012/13.

MINUTES END