

SOCIAL SERVICES APPEALS PANEL MINUTES

2 NOVEMBER 2012

Chairman: * Ms C Ellis

Councillors: * Paul Osborn * Bill Phillips

* Denotes Member present

61. Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED: To note that the Independent Member, Caroline Ellis, would serve as Chairman of the Panel.

62. Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference of the Panel be noted.

63. Minutes

(See Note at conclusion of these minutes).

64. Guidance Notes

RESOLVED: That the guidance notes setting out the nature of the Panel be noted.

65. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item for the reason set out below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
6.	The Keeping of a Child in Secure Accommodation	Information under paragraph 1 (contains information relating to any individual).

RESOLVED ITEMS

66. The Keeping of a Child in Secure Accommodation

The Panel considered confidential reports from the Council's Children's and Families Directorate, an Independent Person and the Secure Unit which set out the background to the current situation and outlined the reasons why a secure unit placement was still considered necessary at this stage.

The Panel carefully reviewed the case, taking into account the updates from officers of Children's and Families Directorate, including the child's social worker, the Secure Unit and the Independent Person. The child and the mother were in attendance and were given the opportunity to set out their views.

The Panel agreed that the criteria for the placement in secure accommodation continued to apply, that the placement continued to be necessary and that no other description of accommodation was appropriate at this time. The Secure Accommodation was considered to be a safe environment for the child and helped to minimise risks.

The Panel noted that the Local Authority might apply to the Court for an extension of the Order if it was deemed necessary.

RESOLVED: That the child remains in the secure placement for the duration of the Secure Order which expired on 5 December 2012.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 12.05 pm, closed at 1.40 pm).

(Signed) MS C ELLIS
Chairman

[Note: Social Services Appeals Panel minutes are:-

- (1) approved following each meeting by the Members serving on that particular occasion and signed as a correct record by the Chairman for that meeting;
- (2) not submitted to the next panel meeting for approval.

Reasons: The Social Services Appeals Panel is constituted from a pooled membership. Consequently, a subsequent Panel meeting is likely to comprise a different Chairman and Members who took no part in the previous meeting's proceedings. The process referred to at (1) above provides appropriate approval scrutiny].