

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

18 APRIL 2007

Chairman: * Councillor Janet Mote

Councillors: * Mrs Margaret Davine * Paul Osborn
 * Mitzi Green * Eric Silver
 Mrs Myra Michael

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**1. **Appointment of Chairman:**

RESOLVED: To note the appointment of Councillor Janet Mote at the Cabinet meeting on 18 January 2007 as Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

2. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

3. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

4. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman:**

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Eric Silver as Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

5. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
9. Panel Aims and Work Programme – Verbal Update	This item was not included on the main agenda when it was printed and circulated because the item had not been confirmed. Members were requested to consider the aims and work plan of the Panel as a matter of urgency.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

6. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

7. **Petitions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

8. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

9. **Panel Membership and Terms of Reference:**

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to this, the inaugural meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Panel noted its Terms of Reference, and considered how best to involve looked-after children, foster carers and designated teachers.

Officers suggested contacting:

- Harrow Foster Care Association to invite the nomination of two non-voting members of the Panel
- teachers to invite them to nominate one non-voting member.

The Panel was informed that many of the senior officers' titles listed in the Terms of Reference had changed, with further amendments expected, owing to the Organisational Review. The Chairman asked officers to circulate a revised list to the Panel.

RESOLVED: That (1) the Terms of Reference be noted;

(2) officers seek non-voting representatives of service users, carers and schools, as listed in the Terms of Reference, to attend meetings of the Panel;

(3) officers circulate to Members an up-to-date list of the names and job titles of the senior officers referred to in the Terms of Reference.

10. **Panel Aims and Work Programme:**

The Panel was invited to consider its work programme, and ways of working. To inform the discussion, officers tabled a confidential sample Management Information Activity Report on looked-after children. This contained statistical information relating to looked-after children and highlighted 11 key performance indicators in line with DfES guidance. The document had a traffic-lights system, with red indicating any area of concern. Members found the report very useful, but asked also to see additional information on:

- the proportion of looked-after children placed outside the Borough and a comparison with other boroughs' figures – Members noted that other boroughs' figures were not widely accessible;
- the number of children with an allocated social worker;
- any useful predictions such as a forecast of the number of adoptions;
- brief anonymised circumstances around specific cases as identified by the Panel;
- GCSE results as soon as they were available, without waiting for validated results – Members noted that there was already a view about the predicted performance of the cohort.

Following discussion, the Panel agreed that it would be useful to have information for a given month, the previous month, the last year, the Outer London average and the projected performance target. Members noted that some key performance indicators were not available on a monthly basis, e.g. GCSE results and school attendance figures.

The Panel also requested a programme of visits to homes of looked-after children, initially by Members of the Panel, with a view to possibly extending this to Councillors outside the Panel in order to highlight the issues covered by the Panel and of children in care. It was noted that sensitivity was required when visiting homes, as these were the children's homes.

The Chairman presented information produced by the London Borough of Barnet and suggested:

- looking at how the London Borough of Barnet had managed to increase the GCSE performance of looked-after children with a view to adopting the good practice;
- inviting a speaker from Barnet to come to talk to the Panel.

The work plan needed to identify the best way forward and how best to receive input from other officers and agencies. Members agreed to intersperse formal meetings with informal meetings.

Members agreed to hold the Panel meetings in the evening, as this was preferable for all Panel attendees and made it more attractive to guest speakers.

The issue of how to promote the work of this Panel would be discussed at a future meeting.

Officers agreed to draw up a list of:

- officers who wished to contribute to the work of the Panel;
- officers and organisations that would want to receive the Panel's support and endorsement for their work.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.05 pm, closed at 7.00 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JANET MOTE
Chairman