

SOCIAL SERVICES APPEALS PANEL MINUTES

22 JANUARY 2010

Chairman: * Ms C Ellis

Councillors: * Mrs Lurline Champagne * Mrs Rekha Shah

* Denotes Member present

40. Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED: That Caroline Ellis be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the purpose of this meeting.

41. Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: That the terms of reference of the Panel be noted.

42. Minutes

(See Note at conclusion of these minutes).

43. Guidance Notes

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

44. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: That 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 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, relating to any individual.

RESOLVED ITEMS

45. The Keeping of a Child in Secure Accommodation

The Panel considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services which set out the background to the current situation and outlined the reasons why a secure placement was still considered necessary. The Panel also considered a report from the Independent Investigator which gave an overview of the child's situation and a report from the Secure Unit.

The Panel carefully reviewed the case, taking into account the verbal updates from officers of Children Services, the Independent Investigator, Secure Unit, and the wishes of the child who was present at the meeting.

Arising from the discussion it was:

- agreed that the Head of Service – Safeguarding and Family Support should be recommended to give approval to a programme for mobility;
- noted that officers would begin to look for a suitable placement for when the child was able to leave secure accommodation;
- agreed that continued contact between the child and her mother should be encouraged;
- agreed that it was a priority to ensure a smooth handover when the present Social Worker leaves the Council's employment.

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.

RESOLVED: That the child remain in the Secure Unit for a period of three months from 22 January 2010.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 11.45 am, closed at 12.45 pm).

(Signed) CAROLINE 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 comprises two Council Panel Members and an Independent Chairman. Consequently, a subsequent Panel meeting may comprise a different Chairman and Members who took no part in the previous meeting's proceedings. The process at (1) above provides appropriate approval scrutiny].