

# **SOCIAL SERVICES APPEALS PANEL MINUTES**

## **14 DECEMBER 2012**

**Chairman:** \* Ms C Ellis

**Councillors:** \* Paul Osborn \* Bill Phillips

\* Denotes Member present

### **73. Appointment of Chairman**

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

### **74. Terms of Reference**

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

### **75. Minutes**

(See Note at conclusion of these minutes).

### **76. Guidance Notes**

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

### **77. Exclusion of 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**

### **78. 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, detailing the child's progress and activities since arrival.

The Panel carefully reviewed the case, taking into account the written and verbal updates from officers of Children's Services, the Independent Investigator, permanent and visiting staff at the Secure Unit, and the views and wishes of the child and the child's parent, who were both present at the meeting.

Panel Members enquired about arrangements for transition to a residential placement, and the options for a placement nearer to the child's family home.

The Panel concluded that the criteria for placement in secure accommodation continued to be met, and were satisfied that the placement continued to be necessary, that the child's identified needs were being met in the current placement, and that no other description of accommodation was appropriate at this time.

**RESOLVED:** That the child remains in the secure placement for the duration of the Secure Order.

- (a) Report of the Independent Investigator.:
- (b) Report of the Secure Unit:

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 1.05 pm, closed at 3.40 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].