

## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

14 APRIL 2008

Chairman: \* Councillor Janet Mote

Councillors: \* Mrs Margaret Davine \* Paul Osborn  
 \* Mitzi Green \* Eric Silver  
 \* Chris Mote (1)

\* Denotes Member present  
 (1) Denotes category of Reserve Member

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL****PART II - MINUTES**30. **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.

31. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

**RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Mrs Myra Michael	Councillor Chris Mote.

32. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

**RESOLVED:** That all items be considered with the press and public present.

33. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign them when they were printed in the Bound Minute Volume.

34. **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).

35. **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).

36. **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).

37. **Activity and Performance re Children Looked After and Children on the Child Protection Register:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director, Children's Services, setting out key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children on the Child Protection Register (CPR), including key performance indicators up to the end of February 2008. The Panel noted the stabilisation of indicators relating to child protection, information on the academic achievement of CLA, the increasing proportion of male CLA and a significant and welcome increase in the adoption rate, which had reached 13% since the report was written. Members noted that the successful adoption rate would have an impact on other performance indicators and that this would be a challenge for the future.

Answering a question from a Member on value-added analyses of the educational achievement of CLA, an officer agreed to provide such information for a future meeting.

Officers also agreed to provide an update on the “virtual headteacher” pilot scheme at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

38. **Education Champions for Children Looked After:**

The Panel received an information report of the Corporate Director, Children's Services, setting out information on a scheme developed by the London Borough of Barnet, whereby senior managers took on the role of champions of a cohort of Children Looked After (CLA). An officer reported that the champions carried out a role in the background of the lives of CLA by asking questions on their behalf, with the support of a multi-agency team dedicated to this purpose. The officer added that the experience of Barnet would be considered by the CLA Life Chances Forum in the context of improving the educational achievement of CLA and drawing any useful conclusions. The Panel noted that Harrow's multi-agency virtual team dealt with health and social care, as well as educational achievement, and that the team's expectations were high. An officer informed the Panel that Harrow's practice in relation to CLA was based on research on best practice, including the experience of other local authorities.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

39. **Any Other Urgent Business:**

(i) **Financial Support for Implementation of “Care Matters – Time for Change” White Paper**

An officer reported that £14,000 would be made available to Harrow by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the implementation of the “Care Matters – Time for Change” White Paper. Priorities had already been set for each of the three main areas, but given the size of the fund, it was proposed that consideration should be given to identifying a distinct project. The officer agreed to report back to the Panel after consulting the Children Looked After (CLA) Life Chances Forum on how best to allocate this funding. The Panel also noted that a Scrutiny Review would be taking place on the implementation of the White Paper.

(ii) **Future Meetings**

The Chairman encouraged Members to suggest consider ideas for discussion at future meetings to ensure that the Panel continues to challenge and monitor the work around Children Looked After (CLA). Members noted that relevant suggestions had been made during an event with young people. The Chairman invited Members to a meeting organised by the Children's Participation Team on 30 April 2008 to discuss the involvement of CLA in the work of the Panel. Members agreed that the role of CLA in a future young people's edition of *Harrow People* could also be discussed at the 30 April meeting.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.03 pm, closed at 7.25 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JANET MOTE  
Chairman

Appendix 1

Officers in  
attendance:

Gail Hancock

David Harrington

Andreas Kyriacou

Head of Service – Safeguarding,  
Family Placement & Support

Service Manager – Performance  
Management

Senior Co-ordinator, Children  
Looked After