

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES

12 OCTOBER 2010

Chairman: Councillor Mitzi Green

Councillors:

* Husain Akhtar	* Brian Gate (1)
* Christine Bednell (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)	* Janet Mote
* Margaret Davine	* William Stoodley

In attendance: * Mark Versallion Minute 16
(Councillors)

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

RECOMMENDED ITEM

15. RECOMMENDATION REPORT - Children in Care Council

An officer introduced a report of the Corporate Director Children's Services, which set out the progress made in formalising the terms of reference of Harrow's Children in Care Council, and the drafting of the Harrow Pledge.

He advised that:

- the Children in Care Council would now be known as Beyond Limits;
- the purpose of the Harrow Pledge was to provide a publicly available document that would explain depth what children should expect from their Corporate Parents;
- officers in Children's Services shared the responsibility to deliver the Harrow Pledge as a corporate strategy.

Members of the Panel were pleased with the work undertaken in formalising the Harrow Pledge. They agreed that it would positively benefit young people in a pastoral and academic sense.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To Cabinet) That

- (1) the draft terms of reference be approved, in particular the interface proposals between Beyond Limits and the Corporate Parenting Panel;
- (2) the Harrow Pledge as outlined by Beyond Limits be adopted;
- (3) two non-voting members of Beyond Limits be appointed to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Reason for Decision: To provide a forum for Children Looked After (CLA) to participate and influence policy, and enable them to discuss issues relating to their own direct experiences of the services they have received.

Care Matters-Time for Change 2007, stipulates that Local Authorities were expected to set up Children In Councils as a way of ensuring that children who were looked after had a voice.

It was also expected that local Children in Care Councils monitor the implementation of locally produced Pledges and in conjunction with Corporate Parenting Panels.