

# CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

## MINUTES

### 11 JANUARY 2011

**Chairman:** \* Councillor Mitzi Green

**Councillors:** \* Husain Akhtar \* Janet Mote  
\* Christine Bednell \* Raj Ray (2)

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

#### 18. Attendance by Reserve Members

**RESOLVED:** To note the attendance of the following duly constituted Reserve Member:

Ordinary Member

Councillor William Stoodley

Reserve Member

Councillor Raj Ray

#### 19. Declarations of Interest

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made.

#### 20. Minutes

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2010 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

#### 21. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

**RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions or petitions were received or deputations put at this meeting.

## **RECOMMENDED ITEM**

### **22. Display for Councillors**

The Chairman introduced the report which set out proposals for publicising the work of Corporate Parenting and Beyond Limits, Harrow's Children in Care Council.

The Chairman advised that:

- it was an obligation of the Corporate Parenting Panel Members to make all Councillors aware of their responsibilities towards Children Looked After (CLA);
- Full Council meetings provided the best opportunity to host a display that would engage all Councillors of the work being conducted with Beyond Limits;
- the intention was to set up this display on an annual basis before the Full Council meetings in April, commencing in 2011;
- any further suggestions on how to engage all Councillors would be welcomed.

In response to questions, officers advised that:

- it was hoped that representatives of Beyond Limits would be able to attend the meeting. Work would continue to establish commitment from the Members of Beyond Limits;
- the possibility of Beyond Limits performing a presentation for all Councillors would be investigated.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to the Corporate Director of Children's Services)

That the Corporate Director of Children's Services be authorised to set up a display outside the Council Chamber on an annual basis before Full Council commencing in April 2011, showcasing the work carried out in conjunction with Beyond Limits.

## **RESOLVED ITEM**

### **23. INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance**

An officer introduced a report which set out key data relating to Children Looked After (CLA) and Children with Child Protection Plans (CPP), plus a performance position for National Indicators for Children's Social Care.

The officer advised that:

- the number of CLA remained low. Due to additional pressures, the number of children subject to a CPP remained high;
- the provisional GCSE results were positive. In comparison with statistical neighbours and results nationally, Harrow had performed better than expected;
- overall, there was demonstrable evidence of strong performance in key indicators. Work would continue to identify any areas for improvement.

In response to questions, officers advised that:

- work on continuing positive trends would continue as a matter of priority;
- the Children in Need and CLA services remained in a strong position, with no vacant staffing positions;
- following an unannounced Ofsted inspection in November 2010, the lead inspector described the Children protection practice as 'Exemplary', in particular the work conducted in relation to adoption. The results of this inspection found a number of strengths within its verbal and written reports. The findings also cited three recommendations, with no priority actions be highlighted;
- a recent benchmarking exercise found that no other London Authority was awarded 'outstanding' for its work in relation to adoption;
- the non-political input of Members from the Corporate Parenting Panel was highly praised;
- there were currently two CLA at Key Stage 2 Level. Twenty seven CLA formed part of the Year 11 cohort, with fourteen being placed in the Borough and thirteen in out of borough placements. Exact numbers would be included in future reports to the Panel;
- an update report of the Virtual Headteacher would be provided at the next meeting of the Panel on 28 March 2011;
- there were 62 CLA aged 16 to 17, and 47 CLA aged 10 to 15. A report detailing any available statistics on the achievements of CLA aged between 16 to 18 would be provided to a future meeting of the Panel;
- the vast majority of unaccompanied asylum seeking children were extremely ambitious. Creative solutions at schools were being devised to cater for non-native speakers. Any specific information relating to asylum seeking children would be identified and presented to a future meeting of the Panel;
- a report detailing how well young people coped when transferred to supported living, would be provided at a future meeting of the Panel;

- formal procedures were in place to tackle and resolve any allegations of racial abuse. It was a statutory responsibility to maintain records of these allegations. Information relating to these instances would be presented to a future meeting of the Panel.

Members of the Panel thanked officers for the report and congratulated them on receiving outstanding overall feedback from the Ofsted inspection.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the following be presented to future meetings of the Panel:
  - Virtual Headteacher's Progress Report;
  - any available statistics on the achievements of CLA aged between 16 to 18;
  - how well young people cope when transferred to supported living;
  - any specific information relating to asylum seeking children;
  - information relating to any instances of racial abuse.

#### **24. Any Other Urgent Business**

**RESOLVED:** That no items were raised.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.05 pm, closed at 7.01 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MITZI GREEN  
Chairman