

# minutes



Meeting CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 16 July 2012 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

## COUNCILLORS

John Allin  
Allen Clarke  
Ged Clarke  
Bob Cross  
Keith Girling

Philip Owen  
Stella Smedley MBE JP  
Lynn Sykes  
Brian Wombwell

## Officers in attendance

Rachel Coombs	-	Group Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department
Christine Marson	-	Governance Support Officer, Policy, Planning & Corporate Services Department
Marion Clay	-	Team Manager, Education Improvement Service, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department
Sue Denholm	-	Co-ordinator, Virtual School, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department
Dawn Godfrey	-	Children's Services Head, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department
Angela Duffus-Palmer		Commissioning Officer, Placements, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department
Anne Chester-Walsh		Children's Service Manager, Children's Department

## ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

### RESOLVED 2012/001

That the appointment of Councillor Allen Clarke as Chairman be noted.

## MEMBERSHIP

### RESOLVED 2012/002

That the membership of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee as set out on the agenda be noted.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None

## **MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED 2012/003**

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 April 2012 having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

- (1) Sue Denholm, Co-ordinator of the Virtual School reported back to the Sub-Committee that there were no Looked After Children in Learning Centres. She also informed the Sub-Committee that Academies were developing good working relationships with the Virtual School.
- (2) Rachel Coombs, Group Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department reported that there was progress being made regarding apprenticeships for Looked After Children both within the County Council and from the private sector.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **RESOLVED 2012/004**

That the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee be noted.

## **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY**

Dawn Godfrey, Children's Services Head, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department introduced the report by stating that the Strategy had already been seen by Members in draft form. The proposed Strategy had been presented to the Children & Young People's Committee and would be recommended for approval at the next Policy Committee.

Rachel Coombs stated that most of the Looked After Children were within the County with only a small percentage being out of the county which was below the national average. She stated that a Looked After Children Project was looking at analysing each of the LAC's journey to try to ensure that resources are used sooner so the young people are in care for a shorter period.

### **RESOLVED 2012/005**

That the report be noted.

## **SUMMER TERM REPORT FROM THE CO-ORDINATOR OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Sue Denholm, Co-ordinator of the Virtual School updated the Sub-Committee on current issues involving the Virtual School for Looked After Children. She informed the Sub-Committee that two Looked After Children Achievement Officers had been appointed and had been in post since May. She reported that the Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with headteachers were to revise the Mission Statement. She agreed to circulate the Mission Statement to all members of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee were pleased to hear of a young person had achieved a prestigious award for agriculture.

Sue Denholm offered to bring a report to the next meeting regarding the work being carried out on careers advice for Looked After Children.

### **RESOLVED 2012/006**

That the report be noted.

## **INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Anne Chester-Walsh, Children's Service Manager, Children's Department presented the report on the current arrangements for the provision of the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children. She reported that Barnardos had been awarded a three year contract to provide an Advocacy Service. She stated that earlier this year Barnardos were having difficulty supplying independent visitors and were not meeting their targets but have since changed their arrangements and were now meeting their targets. As there had been an increase in the number of Looked After Children there was an increased need for advocacy so funding has had to be increased.

### **RESOLVED 2012/007**

That the Sub-Committee noted the current arrangements for the provision of the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children and Young People and the planned increase of the service in 2012-2014.

## **FOSTER CARERS ITEMS**

No foster carers were present.

The meeting closed at 2.55 pm

## **CHAIR**