

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **20 JULY 2009** at the

Council House from 2.32 pm to 4.30 pm

Councillor Mellen	(Chair)
Councillor Ibrahim	(Vice-Chair)
Councillor Collins	
Councillor Griggs	
Councillor Klein	
Councillor Marshall	
Councillor Morley	
Councillor Urquhart	

indicates present at meeting

#### **External representatives in attendance**

Mr D Cooke - Business in the Community  
Ms M Kimche - Leicestershire Cares

#### **Officers in attendance**

Mr N Blinston	- Interim Head of Business Services	- Adult Support and Health
Ms L Anderson	- Service Manager, Fostering	)
Ms I Andrews	- Acting Head of Targeted Services 8-13	)
Ms C Brudenell	- Director of Children's Trust Transitional Programme	) Children's Services
Mr S Gautam	- Director of Specialist Services	)
Ms J Lewis	- Head of Children in Care	)
Ms K Marron	- Head of Curriculum and Strategy 8-13	)
Mr J Rea	- Lead for Engagement and Participation	)
Mr J Sheard	- Community Protection, Bulwell	- Community and Culture
Mr A Vaughan	- Director of Environmental Services	- Environment and Regeneration
Mr K Banfield	- Head of Performance Improvement and Planning	) Resources
Mr M Leavesley	- Committee Administrator	)

**13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collins, Ibrahim and Marshall and from Katrina Curnow (Community and Culture), Barry Horne (Environment and Regeneration) and Gill Moy (Nottingham City Homes).

**14 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Mr Cooke declared a personal interest in item 4(a) (minute 16), Flying Fish Project, insofar as he would be working as an external partner on a similar project with the City Council, which did not preclude him from speaking.

**15 DIRECTOR OF SPECIALIST SERVICES**

The Board welcomed Mr Satinder Gautam, recently appointed as Director of Specialist Services, who gave a brief introduction as to his work background and his proposals for the services provided by his area of responsibility.

**16 FLYING FISH PROJECT**

The Board received a presentation by Monica Kimche, Director of Leicestershire Cares, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Flying Fish Project, a scheme aimed at assisting the homeless and care leavers to build self-esteem and confidence through mentored work placements in the public and private sectors.

During discussion, the following comments were made and additional information given:

- since 2001, 61 people had commenced a placement, with 34 completing the full term, and 97% had gained full-time employment as a result;
- while there may be longer periods offered, it was felt that a maximum 2-4 week residential or work placement was sufficient for most attendees;
- when the City started its own similar scheme, it would need to be linked to One Nottingham's 'Job Fund';
- in Leicestershire, the local authority was involved with the scheme and had people on placement in areas such as administration and parks, and there was a standing item, to update Councillors, on its Executive Board agenda;
- discussions were ongoing between departments on ways to take the proposed Nottingham scheme forward.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the thanks of the Board for the informative presentation and attendance by Ms Kimche be recorded;**
- (2) that the Head of Children in Care be requested to:**
  - (a) submit a report to a future meeting detailing the latest position with regard to providing a similar scheme for Nottingham to that operating in Leicestershire;**

**ACTION**

- (b) invite a member of Nottinghamshire Police to a future meeting to discuss whether there was a link between children in care and criminalisation.**

J Lewis

**17 11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY**

The Board received a presentation by Irene Andrews, Acting Head of Targeted Services 8-13, and Jon Rea, Lead for Engagement and Participation, regarding the 11 Million Takeover Day, a scheme established in 2007 by the Office of the Children's Commissioner, Sir Al Aynsley-Green, with the aim of ensuring adults in charge listened to what children and young people said and gave them a real opportunity to take part in decision making.

During discussion, the following comments were made and additional information given:

- the 'Day' would form part of Youth Work Week (1 to 7 November 2009) and would take place on Friday 6 November and the City would focus on Looked After Children and Young People;
- participation was available on 3 levels as follows, and the City would be offering Levels 1 and 3:
  - Level 1 - Job shadowing and work experience;
  - Level 2 – Sharing a challenge in the organisation;
  - Level 3 - Children and young people change one thing in one day;
- regarding Level 1, 50 children and young people would be shadowing Councillors, the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors, the Mayor and Sheriff and operational staff across the authority;
- there would be an event held on the evening of 6 November, where a video diary of the day would be shown, and the outcomes from the day would be fed into the Comprehensive Area Assessment;
- the Day should be used as a springboard and linked to future opportunities for young people;
- as this was an annual event, consideration should be given to linkages with schools, both primary and secondary.

**RESOLVED that the thanks of the Board for the informative presentation by Ms Andrews and Mr Rea be recorded and the information noted.**

**18 ROLE OF MULTI-AGENCY OUTCOMES GROUP**

The Board received a verbal update by Julie Lewis on the role and ongoing work of the Multi-Agency Outcomes Group.

**RESOLVED that the information be noted and the Corporate Leadership Team be requested to ensure that each department had nominated a representative to attend meetings of the Multi-Agency Outcomes Group and, if it had not, to do so with immediate effect.**

Corporate  
Leadership  
Team

**19 RECENT INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN IN CARE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES: MARCH TO JUNE 2009**

Consideration was given to a briefing paper of the Head of Children in Care, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the outcomes from recent Ofsted and Regulation 33 inspections, carried out during the period March to June 2009 and in accordance with the 2001 Children's Homes Regulations, in respect of Crocus Fields, Beckhampton Road, Vivian Avenue and Ranskill Gardens' Children's Homes.

It was reported that all areas of concern raised had been addressed and resolved.

**RESOLVED that the briefing paper be noted.**

**20 COUNCILLOR VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Specialist Services, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the proposed introduction of visits to Children's Homes by Councillors and colleagues who were members of this Board.

It was reported that the reasoning behind the visits was to raise the awareness of the Board to the challenges faced within the service, the achievements gained and to contribute towards safeguarding young people living in residential care in the City.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that members of the Board inform the Head of Children in Care of their preferred visit date, as detailed in appendix 1, and that all members would make at least one visit during September and October 2009;**
- (2) that all those undertaking a visit would report back to the November 2009 meeting to assist in a discussion into how members might contribute to future Regulation 33 visits to Children's Homes.**

**Members / J  
Lewis**

**21 FOSTERING FORTNIGHT AND 'BIG IT UP' EVENT**

The Board received a verbal report from Julie Lewis, informing Councillors on the outcomes from the Fostering Fortnight events, held during the period 11 to 24 May 2009, and the 'Big It Up' event, held at the EQ nightclub on the evening of 8 July 2009.

It was reported that the number of enquiries from people interested in fostering was up by over 30% compared to the same period during 2008, while enquires from people interested in adoption had received the greatest boost and had more than trebled.

The Fostering and Adoption team had been advising people about the amount of support available to foster carers and taking enquiries at an information point in the Old Market Square, at information meetings and over the phone.

**ACTION**

The 'Big It Up' Awards event had been held to honour the achievements of Nottingham's teenagers and young people, aged 13-17 years, who were in the care of Nottingham City Council.

BBC East Midlands presenters Dominic Heale and Anne Davies, along with Nottingham actors Joe Dempsie, Tim Smith and Luke Gell, presented awards to 59 young people, and a special Director's Award for Outstanding Achievement was also presented to one young person on the night.

A record number of nominations had been received from adults involved in the lives of children in care, for the outstanding progress that they had made in the last year, in one of the following Every Child Matters categories:

- Enjoy and Achieve;
- Be Healthy;
- Stay Safe;
- Economic Wellbeing;
- Making a Positive Contribution.

**RESOLVED that the information be noted and that the Director of Human Resources be requested to investigate the possibility of extending the employee BUPA scheme to include foster carers.**

**B Browne**