

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES

of meeting held on **24 MAY 2010** at the

Council House from 2.38 pm to 4.20 pm

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

indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance

Mr D Cooke	-	Business in the Community
Ms L Anderson)	
Ms H Blackman)	Children and Families
Ms C Brudenell)	
Ms T Madahar)	
Ms J Dearing	-	Development
Ms D Malcolm	-	Nottingham Post
Ms C Sheehan	-	Nottingham Primary Care Trust
Ms S Parker	-	Nottingham Youth Advocacy Service
Mr K Banfield)	Resources
Mr M Leavesley)	

ACTION

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collins and Griggs (both on other City Council business) and Morley and from Katrina Curnow (Communities) and Gill Moy (Nottingham City Homes).

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

50 MINUTES

(a) Confirmation

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 March 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters arising

(i) Work Placement – Care Leavers

Further to minute 41(b)(ii), Mr Cooke reported that funding for 2 years had been secured to take the project forward and that placements in City departments were still being sought. Ms Dearing agreed to highlight at a future meeting of the Corporate Leadership Team the requirement for departmental placements.

J Dearing

(ii) Board Attendance

RESOLVED that the Committee Clerk email the relevant people to ensure attendance at future meetings by a representative from Communities, Nottingham City Homes and Nottinghamshire Police.

M Leavesley

51 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN CARE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Safeguarding, copies of which had been circulated, and a presentation by Helen Blackman, detailing the work undertaken in regard to children looked after in the City.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- there had been an increase of 11% in the number of children in care during the period March 2009 to March 2010, while during the same period, the City had lost 12½ members of staff from a pool of 90;
- the lack of experienced and/or qualified people available was a national problem, leading to more authorities, including Nottingham City, considering the use of foreign workers (with the appropriate qualifications);
- the City recently received one of the best Ofsted Inspections in the country, but was still experiencing retention difficulties;
- all carers in the City were trained, including in the use of a 'net nanny' to ensure internet use by children was appropriate;
- members of the Board had concerns that the recent change from a Department for Children, Schools and Families to a Department of Education left a gap in responsibility for anything that was not considered part of the education remit.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Director of Safeguarding be requested to submit to a future meeting a report outlining the changes arising from the change in Government departmental responsibility as detailed above.

ACTION**52 NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SERVICE (NYAS)**

Further to minute 24(b)(1), consideration was given to a report of Sara Parker, NYAS Co-ordinator, Nottingham, updating the Board on the work undertaken by NYAS in respect of young people through issues-based advocacy and monthly children's homes' visits.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- the Board was pleased that young people were being offered an independent advocacy service;
- while young people were required to leave local authority care at 18 (a national requirement), the City had discretion to let them remain in care longer if there were exceptional circumstances and, in all cases, the 15+ Team was there should the person require any assistance (accommodation, employment etc);
- the City was looking at commissioning an external advocacy service:
- the Government was looking at introducing new 'Leaving Care' legislation in the future, but it may be some time before this became law.

RESOLVED the report be noted.

53 2ND ANNUAL REPORT: FOSTERING SERVICE – 1 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Safeguarding, copies of which had been circulated, informing the Board of the work undertaken by the City's Fostering Service, including recruitment activity, challenges, statistics and trends, recruitment and retention and support activity.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

54 HEALTH INDICATORS: PERFORMANCE - 1 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Safeguarding, copies of which had been circulated, and a presentation by Helen Blackman, regarding the performance of the Children Looked After Health Team.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.