

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **19 JULY 2010** at the

Council House from 2.35 pm to 4.18 pm

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

indicates present at meeting

#### **Also in attendance**

Mr D Cooke - Business in the Community  
Ms P Thompson-Omenka - Children and Families  
Mr G Hibbert - Development  
Ms G Moy - Nottingham City Homes  
Ms S Flint - Nottinghamshire Police  
Ms D Monk - Nottingham Post  
Mr M Leavesley - Resources

#### **ACTION**

#### **1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ibrahim be appointed Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2010/11.

#### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collins, Marshall (both on other City Council business) and Ibrahim and from Jennifer Dearing (Development).

#### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

#### **4 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 May 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**5 PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS (PEPs) FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER – 30 JUNE 2010**

Consideration was given to a matrix of the Head of Children in Care, copies of which had been circulated, informing the Board of the latest position regarding the number of PEPs in place for children in care.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- while it was a mandatory requirement for all children in care to have a PEP, it was difficult for the City Council to ensure that they were in place for children attending schools outside of Nottingham;
- during May/June 2010, the City had increased the number of PEPs in place from 27% to 64%.

**RESOLVED that the matrix and the progress over the previous two months be noted.**

**6 RE-PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE IN SMALL GROUP HOMES**

Further to minute 41(b)(i) dated 15 March 2010, consideration was given to the final business case document for the re-provision of children's residential care in small group homes.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- the homes, where possible, would be located in areas which already had a predomination of young people;
- staffing levels would, in real terms, be less than currently as one member of staff would be responsible for 2 or 3 homes;
- the Board was pleased that Ranskill Gardens would now be closed as it was far too institutionalised for today's style of provision.

**RESOLVED that the business case be noted and the thanks of the Board for the assistance given in locating suitable properties be conveyed to the appropriate Nottingham City Homes staff.**

**7 INVEST TO SAVE: TARGETED SUPPORT TEAM**

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Families, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the proposal to create an Intensive Support Team to enable the transition of young people from residential care to independent living or internal provision.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) **that the proposal for use of £165,000 of the Invest To Save fund to create an Intensive Support Team by the recruitment of four Targeted Support Workers, an Assistant Manager and a Part-time Administrative Assistant be approved;**

**ACTION**

- (2) that when recruited, the staff detailed at (1) above be authorised to identify 40 young people to be worked with intensively to progress Assessed Care Plans to reduce the need for external placements where appropriate;
- (3) that the report be noted.

**8 VERBAL REPORTS****(a) Regulation 33 visits**

It was reported that should Councillors require it, training would be provided by Sharon Clarke, Residential Unit Manager, to ensure that the Statutory Requirement of Regulation 33 visits being carried out by Councillors on the Corporate Parenting Board was met.

**(b) Performance Indicators: Children in Care outcomes**

Consideration was given to a matrix, copies of which were placed around the table, detailing the City's performance during April and May 2010 regarding Looked After Children against national indicators.

Members of the Board stated that while the City was slightly above the NI CSS101a target, Number of Looked After Children, (528 against a target of 520), it could not refuse to take children into care if required to do so. It was also stated that systems such as early intervention, health care and support for families and young people should help to reduce the number of looked after children.

**(c) Care Matters: Partnership with Nottinghamshire Police**

Sam Flint, Nottinghamshire Police, reported that:

- the 'missing' protocol (whereby if a child was late returning to their home, they were not reported as missing to the Police prior to checking whether they were at a friends house etc), already in place at the Council, needed to be extended to private units;
- the proposed small group homes' residents should have a police background check prior to being allocated a place to ensure there were no historic problems associated with the young person.

**(d) Big It Up Awards: Future funding**

It was reported that this years Big It Up Awards was scheduled to take place on 12 October, but that fund raising would need to be undertaken to ensure the continuity of the event.

**(e) Announced Ofsted inspection of Children in Care and Children in Need**

Consideration was given to a briefing note, copies of which were placed around the table, informing the Board of the requirements from an anticipated Ofsted/Care Quality Commission inspection, sometime before the end of 2010, of the City's Safeguarding and Looked After Children services.

**RESOLVED that the verbal reports be noted.**

**9 SOCIAL WORKERS: LATEST POSITION**

The Chair updated the Board on the latest position regarding City Council Social Workers. He stated that City Social Workers' pay was now equitable to other local authorities and that a recruitment drive was currently underway, with 4 new staff being employed in June and a possibility of more to be employed during July.

**RESOLVED that the latest position be noted.**

**10 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED that the Board meet at 2.30pm on the following Mondays:**

**2010**

**20 September  
15 November**

**2011**

**17 January  
21 March**