

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY
PANEL
6 JULY 2011
5.00 - 6.55 PM**



Present:

Councillors Mrs McCracken (Chairman), Mrs Barnard (Vice Chairman)
Mrs Birch, Ms Brown, and Ms Hayes

Also Present:

Councillor Barnard (Executive Member for Children and Young People)

9. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs McCracken be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

10. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Barnard be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

Introductions and Welcome

Introductions were made around the table and the Chairman welcomed Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer: Children's Social Care, to her first meeting.

11. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Part 4, Section 13 of the Council's Constitution:

Councillor Mrs Barnard declared a personal interest as her husband was the Executive Member for Children and Young People.

12. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

13. CRB Checks

Panel members were advised that it was necessary for all Panel members and substitutes to undergo a CRB check. Several members stated that they had undergone fairly recent CRB checks for various reasons, school governor, classroom helper, occupation, and asked Democratic Services to enquire whether it was necessary to undertake another one.

The Panel noted that CRBs would be undertaken as necessary after seeking advice.

14. **Final Annual Performance Figures 2010**

Sheila McKeand presented the final annual performance statistics for the year to March 2010. At all other meetings of the Panel a shortened version is submitted. The papers in the agenda were in black and white so a coloured version of the document was tabled.

Report 1, total number of looked after children, gave an overview of the year. The Panel noted that Bracknell Forest was still low in comparison to national figures and the South East. A change in policy had resulted in disabled children looked after for short term breaks were not now included in the statistics.

Attention was drawn to the poor performance in relation to previous years of the number of LAC who have had a health assessment within a year. Discussions were ongoing with the PCT.

The Panel indicated to Sheila the information they would like included in the regular performance reports:-

- Report 1
- Report 3
- Report 5
- Report 8
- Report 10
- Report 12
- Report 13
- Appendix 1

15. **Placement Sufficiency: Residential, Fostering, Adoption**

Sarah Roberts introduced the Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children Plan. There would also be a plan for short break care.

There had been a review of current provision:-

- In-house foster care
- Independent fostering agencies
- Residential provision
- Local support services
- Supported lodgings
- Current placement types.

A needs assessment detailed:-

- National and local trends
- A snapshot of current need
- Additional provision required
- A three yearly review

The Panel noted the action plan.

Arising in discussion, the Panel asked about the quality of CAMHS support and noted that the service level agreement had come to an end in April 2011 and had been renewed to include a specialist worker for the disabled children's team. CAMHS were in the process of recruiting. An independent provider was currently in place in the interim period.

16. Hearing the Voice of the Child: Engaging with Children And Young People

Louise Hopkinson, Children's Participation Development Officer, attended the meeting to give the Panel an overview of SiLSiP and how the Council worked with the young people. SiLSiP (Sat it Loud, Say it Proud) was the name young people chose to call the Children in Care Council and was the voice of all children in care.

SiLSiP held regular formal and semi-formal meetings. SiLSiP members attended Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel, usually at the December meeting and they provided a training session for CPAP members in 2010, as well as sitting on interviewing panels.

Other activities included:-

- publication of a newsletter
- a short slot at the Education Awards Ceremony
- an on-line survey
- a poetry workshop
- residential activities

Plans were afoot for a pilot project for a closed Facebook page.

The Panel were asked to think about how to engage more with the young people, not just at CPAP meetings. Suggestions included:-

- Inviting SiLSiP to more CPAP meetings
- inviting certain groups of young people to parts of the CPAP meeting
- activities such as bowling, pizza
- meetings outside of the Council Chamber setting
- possibly another training session led by the young people
- speed talking
- question time

The Panel agreed to email ideas to Sheila McKeand who would set up a small working group, including young people, to flesh out the ideas.

17. Dates of Next Meetings and Forward Plan

28 September 2011	Education – exam results
14 December 2011	IRO Service annual report
	SiLSiP annual report

CHAIRMAN

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