

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

**Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2014 at 5.00pm in Room F9,
The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX**

MINUTES - PART A

Present: Councillor Janet Marshall (Chair)
Councillor Lynne Hale (Vice Chair)
Councillors, Kathy Bee, Jan Buttinger, Donna Gray, Tim Pollard and Susan Winborn

Co-optees: Martin Williams (Foster Carers)

Officers Paul Chadwick, Darren Shuster, Wendy Tomlinson, Solomon Agutu, Kelly Henry and Gavin Swann

Apologies: Ashleigh Searle and Dionne Sang

A11/14 MINUTES (agenda item 1)

RESOLVED that subject to the amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair. It was resolved that the minutes of the last meeting should be amended to include Cllrs Lynne Hale, Tim Pollard and Susan Winborn as they had been present at the meeting.

A12/14 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST (agenda item 3)

None

A13/14 URGENT BUSINESS (agenda item 4)

None

A14/14 EXEMPT ITEMS (agenda item 5)

It was resolved by the Panel that the Report on Looked After Children be considered as a Part B report.

A15/14 Looked After Children Complaints - (agenda item 6)

At the Corporate Parenting Panel on 8 January 2014, Panel Members were asked to consider the 2012/13 children's social care annual complaints report which reported on complaints received in relation to all children's social care. Panel members had resolved that the report be deferred for it to be produced in a different format.

The Panel considered the revised report. The Panel felt that this was a more useful and informative report and thanked officers for it. This was the way to go to make the report suitable for a wider audience and more human and user friendly so we could learn from it. Although the Panel were pleased with the deferred report they felt that there is still room for improving how any report data for the Panel is presented. The Panel agreed that they need to see information which is relevant rather than an abundance of data. It was also suggested that point 3.13 of the report would have been more useful if the failure or refusal element discussed were broken down further. Officers replied that this was a systems recording issue and accepted that it may need relooking at.

Officers suggested that the Panel needed a process which ensures that they are continually learning regarding the needs and experiences of the young person. Officers further stated that what was needed was a systems approach which was currently being put in place. There are a number of other suites of information available and the question was what was the best time to submit the complaints report, in the context of the other suites of information which will be available every six months. It was suggested that it would be worthwhile to move the dates of these complaints reports so that they coincide with the quality assurance report.

RESOLVED: to accept the report and for officers to meet with Democratic services officers to agree the dates of submission of complaints reports.

A16/14 Emotional and Mental Health Needs of Croydon's Looked After Children (CAHMS) (agenda item 7)

This report is due to a referral from the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting which took place on 3 July 2013. At that meeting the Corporate Parenting Panel had considered a joint report about CAHMS which had been prepared following an OFSTED inspection in May 2012. The Corporate Parenting Panel resolved to refer the matter to Scrutiny as the Corporate Parenting Panel is not a Scrutiny Committee. The Panel requested a follow up report from officers at a future meeting.

The Panel considered the follow up report from Scrutiny. The report concluded that Scrutiny was satisfied with the progress being made with the action plan and was satisfied that the trigger issues had now been resolved. It was agreed by the Panel that the action plan needed to be monitored at every meeting.

The panel discussed the gap between referral and appointment and considered whether "18" score on the SDQ was a high enough risk threshold, and questioned how a young person who is recorded as being 'high risk' is kept engaged and monitored while waiting for a referral. There was a discussion about the score of "18". Not all clinicians agree that it is a high risk threshold but where a child scores significantly higher than 18 then they are treated as an emergency. The SDQ score is used in over 80 countries and works very well but it was worth pointing out that

many referrals are triggered without an SDQ. CAHMS will not always wait for an SDQ score but it is a once a year temperature check to get a holistic view

The panel questioned the new measure set out in 2.1.18 of the report.

The Panel questioned CAHMS support for Social workers and CAHMS funding.

Officers reported that since the OFSTED report LAC CAHMS has improved relationship with social workers. There had been training in January and February 2014 for social workers and foster carers; they have appointed link clinicians to provide support for staff and the two services relationships has grown. Dr Goode had also been clear at Scrutiny that they had the capacity to take on more referrals – perhaps fewer LACs were referred because the threshold was considered to be high.

The Panel agreed that the Action Plan should be reviewed at every Corporate Parenting Panel meeting and that it would also be useful to receive relevant reports from the LAC Health Strategy Group.

In relation to the question on funding, officers stated that funding for CAHMS relating to LAC has remained consistently the same from the Council but that there is a broader issue about CAHMS services generally not related to LAC. CCG is the bigger commissioner of these services and has improved the amount going to CAHMS. However a Joint Commissioning Unit is being set up and this is intended to give better value for money and to help with the clarity of specifications.

RESOLVED: the report be received and that the LAC action plan on CAHMS be reviewed at every Corporate Parenting meeting and that SLAM CAHMS officers be invited to be present for those reports (it was acknowledged that panel had no power to demand attendance from SLAM officers).

A17/14 Dates of Future Meetings (agenda item 8)

It was agreed that the dates of future meetings were left open until after the election.

The panel therefore **RESOLVED** that the following reports will be on the agenda for the next meeting in July 2014:

- ◆ Complaints Report
- ◆ Action Plan on CAHMS
- ◆ LAC Health Strategy Report

At the end of the Part B session (but recorded in this Part) Cllr Tim Pollard thanked Cllr Marshall for chairing the Panel for the last 3 years. The Chair also thanked all those who had sat on the Panel and who had been involved in its work and noted that though she was leaving the

council after nearly 24 years, she wished well to those Members who were standing again.

The Chair moved the camera resolution and this was seconded by Cllr Hale.