

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

8 May 2012

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (in the absence due to ill health of Councillor Cath Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Dean Jackson, Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

35. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report included a schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies considered by members of the General Purposes Sub Committee at their meeting held on 16th April 2012.

The Mayor commented that he did not wish to see any of the vacancies unfilled for too long. Officers indicated that a further report on nominations was to be submitted to the next General Purposes Committee.

Decision

That recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of

the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies as detailed below be approved: -

Clavering Primary School - Mrs I Green
Fens Primary School - Mr P Heward and Mrs A. Marshall
Rossmere Primary School - Councillor Paul Thompson
Seaton Carew Nursery School- Report to be submitted to the General Purposes Committee
St Bega's R.C. Primary School - Mr Stuart Langston
West View Primary School - Councillor S Griffin
Kingsley Primary School - Mrs J Hanson.

36. Adoption Annual Report 2011/2012 and Statement of Purpose 2012/2013 (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to present to Portfolio Holder the Annual Report of the Adoption Service 2011/12 and the Adoption Service Statement of Purpose 2012/13.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services reported that the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011 (Standard 18) required Local authorities to produce a clear Statement of Purpose which was available to, and understood by adopters, staff, volunteers and children. The Statement of Purpose should be child focussed and show how the services would meet outcomes for children. In addition, a Children's Guide should be available to children whose plan was for adoption. Minimum standards 25.6 required the adoption agency to ensure the executive side of the local authority:

- Receive a written report on the management, outcomes and financial state of the agency once every 6 months;
- Monitor the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the agency is effective and achieving good outcomes for children and / or services users;
- Satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of the registration.

The Annual Report of the Adoption Service 2011/12 and the Adoption Services Statement of Purpose 2012/13 were submitted as appendices to the report.

The Assistant Director indicated that the National Adoption Standards Scorecard were due to be published today and Hartlepool had achieved good results through the assessment. There were an increasing number of

children coming through the care system but the authority was being successful in recruiting adoptive parents and children did not have to wait an unnecessary long time for placements.

Decision

That the Annual Report of the Adoption Service 2011/12 and the Adoption Service Statement of Purpose for 2012/13 be received.

37. Fostering Services Annual Report 2011/12 and Statement of Purpose *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to present to the Portfolio Holder the Annual Report of the Fostering Service 2011/12 and the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose for 2012/13.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services reported that the Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011 (Standard 16) required Local Authorities to produce a clear Statement of Purpose which was available to, and understood by foster carers, staff and children and was reflected in any policies, procedures and guidance. It should be available to any parent or person with responsibility. The Statement of Purpose should be child focussed and show how the services would meet outcomes for children. In addition, a Children's Guide should be available to children who receive a foster care service. The Fostering Services Minimum Standard 25.7 requires fostering services to ensure the executive side of the local authority:

- Receives a written report on the management, outcomes and financial state of the agency once every 3 months;
- Monitor the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the agency is effective and achieving good outcomes for children;
- Satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of the registration.

The Annual Report of the Fostering Service 2011/12 and the Fostering Services Statement of Purpose 2012/13 were submitted as appendices to the report. Future update reports would be submitted quarterly to the Portfolio Holder.

Decision

That the Annual Report of the Fostering Service 2011/12 and the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose for 2012/13 be received.

38. Improving the Safety and Wellbeing of Local Adolescents *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information only.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to update the Portfolio Holder on the work of the Hartlepool Safeguarding Children's Board (HSCB) which had developed a series of recommendations to support the further development of local arrangements relating to the safety and well-being of adolescents in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided a summary of the work of the Adolescent Task and Finish Group established by Hartlepool Safeguarding Children Board and set out the recommendations to support the further development of local arrangements relating to the safety and well-being of adolescents in Hartlepool. The report provided the Portfolio Holder with an opportunity to comment on the issues highlighted in the report and influence the work of the Board in its development of services relating to the safety and well-being of adolescents in Hartlepool. A copy of the full report submitted to the Hartlepool Safeguarding Children's Board was attached as an appendix to the report for information.

Decision

1. That the findings and recommendations of the task and finish group to support the further development of local arrangements relating to the safety and well-being of adolescents in Hartlepool be endorsed.
2. That the work of Hartlepool Safeguarding Children Board in developing an action plan to implement the recommendations be endorsed.

The meeting concluded at 10.25 a.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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