

## Agenda Item 2

At a meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 21 February 2012 at 7:00 pm at Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow.

### **Members Present:**

Councillor Balvir Sond (Chair)

Councillors Linda Davies (Vice-Chair), Poonam Dhillon and Paul Lynch

Jacqui Corley, Iman Iftikar and Kulvinder Lal

### **Other Councillors Present:**

None

### **Officers present:**

Alan Weaver Scrutiny Officer

Ben Osifo Scrutiny Officer

### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Colin Botterill, Tom Bruce, Melvin Collins and Peta Vaught and Rev. David Coleman, Roshni Mehra and Robert Was

### **32. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

### **33. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

### **Matters Arising**

Item 29 – Youth Services

The report was submitted to Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The Lead Member welcomed the report and said that she would look at the wider issues regarding youth provision and report back to the panel in 8 weeks time.

### **34. Scrutiny Review of Child Protection and Corporate Parenting - Service Provision and Delivery in the new Financial Climate**

The Scrutiny Officer referred members to his report (agenda item 4) and asked the Panel to consider the proposed work plans:

1. Review Child Protection issues in a single meeting in March 2012.
2. Have a series of meetings to look at the issue.
3. look at other issues

Cllr Davies commented that the reason this issue had been highlighted was because of the proposed re-structure combining adult and children's services into one department and that some issues were quite key and some not as key. Corporate Parenting was important as all Members were corporate parents. The case load on social workers was more important as

were plans for early intervention.

Cllr Lynch commented that the pressure on services will be resourcing issues and the system really needed looking at. He had concerns about whether staff were properly supported by resources and systems and that some things would benefit from wider exposure.  
*(Imam Waqr jointed the meeting at 7.15pm)*

Councillor Dillon considered one meeting would be sufficient for this review.

Following discussion, Alan Weaver clarified the Panel's preferences as:

- Review resourcing issues
- Review early intervention

At the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February, Cllr Collins asked for an overview to inform Members of their responsibilities as Corporate Parent. Members were not fully aware of their rights and responsibilities regarding child protection. Children's Services Department offered a training resource and Scrutiny would put questions together to address at the beginning of the next meeting.

Jacqui Corley thought that it would be sufficient to review these areas rather than expand this to other areas and risk not accomplishing the task.

Cllr Davies thought that a series of meetings would be required and that there would be no point in the exercise otherwise as the Panel would get nothing out of the review. Ben Osifo explained that there were three meetings remaining for this municipal year in which to complete the review and report any recommendations to O&S and/or Cabinet. Outstanding issues could be carried forward to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

### **The Panel agreed:**

Over the course of two meeting to review:

- Governance
- Resources
- Key terms
- Structure changes by inviting the Chief Executive to the April meeting and also to give an overview of how the combining of adult and children's services was working in other boroughs.
- Review Corporate Parenting and Child Protection service provision and delivery in the new financial climate over two meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- Invite the Chair of Local Safeguarding Board.
- Invite the Chair of the Adoption Panel to the meeting in April should issues develop to get more focus on Corporate Parenting.

Alan Weaver will contact Panel Members by e-mail regarding any other issues and brief Imam Waqr about proposed work plan for two meetings regarding child protection and safeguarding in light of merger of adult and children's services.

The Imam commented that it was a good initiative. There was a need to see how other councils have managed the same changes. In terms of resources difference functions still operate. Ben Osifo will send a copy of the proposed structure to Imam Waqr.

**35. Appendix 1 revised**

The appendix attached to the main agenda was later amended to include late corrections by Chris Hogan to the minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and circulated to Panel Members by e-mail.

**36. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**37. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.00pm.

**The meeting finished at 7:30 pm.**

The minute taker at this meeting was Joti Patel