

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 29 May 2012.

Chairman:
p Councillor Marilyn Tucker

Councillors:

p Adrian Evans
a Mrs Charlotte Bailey
p Ray Bolton
a Brian Dash

a David Keast
p Mrs Roz Chadd
p Mrs Pamela Mutton
p Mrs Jackie Porter

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Charlotte Bailey, Brian Dash and David Keast.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matter considered at the meeting declared that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, considered whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the code.

68. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 7 February 2012 were considered by the Panel, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged those Members who had not already seen Wessex Dance Academy's performance of "*Momentum*" next scheduled for 30 May 2012 at the Theatre Royal Winchester to do so as it was an exceptional event which involved young people from across Hampshire performing. It was noted that another event was being organised for later in September this year.

The Panel was advised that two Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel were due to attend and observe this meeting but unfortunately both had tendered their apologies. The Chairman then welcomed them to any meeting they may attend in the future.

70. **MEMBERS FEEDBACK ON VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES**

Councillor Bolton reported that he had recently visited Swanwick Lodge Children's Home where he had had the opportunity to speak with many of the staff and children and was particularly impressed with the craftwork the young people were producing.

71. **CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)**

The Panel received and noted a presentation from Simone Button of the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Hampshire.

Members were advised on the progress made to date in working with the Trust on CAMHS and its key priorities, which included: reducing waiting times for assessment and treatment, building partnerships with local GP's and reducing admissions to inpatient units and their length of stay.

The key challenges facing the service including managing the increased demand for services and meeting the emotional and mental health needs of young people and their families were noted.

72. **FOSTERING SERVICE OFSTED REPORT; FINDINGS AND ACTION PLAN**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on Hampshire's Fostering Service Inspection Report undertaken by Ofsted in February of this year.

Members noted that the overall rating for Hampshire's Fostering Service was "Good" and that the provision of service was strong. The inspection report highlighted two areas of practice as "Outstanding", which were:

- "Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do"
- "Helping children make a positive contribution"

The report also highlighted the Service's Action Plan for future further improvements.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel noted the findings and acknowledged the action plan against the recommendations outlined in the Ofsted Report.

73. **ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) detailing the activity of the Adoption Service. It

highlighted the number of adopters recruited and the number of children placed for adoption during the year for 2011/12.

It was noted that the number of adoptions made within the County in 2011/12 was 43 and it was hoped that this could be increased further in coming years. It was reported that in future, it was likely that the adoption timetable would take 6 months and be a two-stage process.

74. UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING POST MUNRO REPORT

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) giving an update on the progress achieved by Hampshire's Children's Services against Professor Munro's Review of Child Protection.

The Deputy Director highlighted the challenges facing Safeguarding, particularly around redesigning the ways in which child and family social work was delivered through: inspection and regulation, performance management, governance and learning and development. The Department was performing well against these recommendations and the potential for further improvements were noted. In particular, that an effective triage system to manage caseloads would be in place by September 2012.

RESOLVED:

The Panel noted the content of the report and the progress made against the recommendations given in the Review by Professor Munro.