

At a meeting of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Parkway in Fareham on Tuesday 4 February 2014

Chairman:
p Councillor David Keast

p Ann Briggs
p Rita Burgess
p Jacqui England
p Jonathan Glen

p Jackie Porter
p Roz Chadd
p Malcolm Wade
p Christopher Wood

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received for this meeting.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Code.

No declarations were made at this meeting.

17. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 2 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Members that Officers within Children's Services Department would contact them to arrange visits to the children home within their division and Glen House in Swanwick should they not have already done so. Councillors Rita Burgess and Roz Chadd had already made their own arrangements for this visit.

19. MEMBERS' VISITS TO CHILDRENS HOMES

Individual Members of the Panel reported on visits they had made to

Children's Homes, in particular Glendalyn in New Milton and Godbey House in Hayling Island.

20. **HAMPSHIRE ADOPTION SERVICE SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13**

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book) giving a summary of the County Council's Hampshire Adoption Service's annual report for 2012/13.

Members were advised that during the year 2012-13, there had been a significant increase in all areas of adoption activity and that with regard to activity related to children, there had been 62 Adoption Orders made (24% increase from last year), 76 children matched (77% increase) and 95 Adoption Plans agreed (16% increase).

The Director reported that the second scorecard was produced by the Department for Education in December 2012. At this time the Adoption Service was judged as successfully meeting all three main targets in relation to the national average and targets set. The next score card would be due in Autumn 2013.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

21. **OVERVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING PRESENTATION**

The Panel received and noted a presentation (Item 6 on the agenda) from the Director of Children's Services on the County Council's Safeguarding processes and the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The Director reported that MASH had come into operation on 31 January 2014 and brought together professionals from a range of agencies, including the County Council's social workers and Children and Families Branch, Hampshire Constabulary and the NHS, with close links to probation and housing organisations, amongst others, into an integrated multi-agency team who will assess and make decisions on safeguarding concerns.

These organisations had virtual and fast-tracked access to professionals from other support agencies including probation services, ambulance services, Hampshire Fire and Rescue service, and district and borough councils.

Members were advised that this partnership arrangement was already receiving 5,500 contacts per month and was leading to faster information sharing and making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children and their families. It ensured effective, and timely, delivery of services to children and their families by Hampshire's dedicated social care teams.

Following the meeting, Members were shown around the MASH teams and listened to some "real-life" incidents.