

**Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) held at  
2.00pm on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2014**

Present:

Cabinet Member: Councillor Duggins

Deputy Cabinet Member: Councillor Innes

Shadow Cabinet Member: Councillor Lepoidevin

Other Members:- Councillor Abbott  
Councillor M Mutton

Employees (by Directorate):

People: J. Sembi, R. Sugars

Resources: S. Bennett, L. Hughes, J. Newman, A. West

### **Public Business**

#### **37. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **38. Minutes**

(a) The minutes of the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 were agreed as a true record.

(b) There were no matters arising.

#### **39. Special Guardianship Allowances**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People that outlined Coventry's policy and practice review for the assessment of Special Guardianship arrangements, particularly focusing on the financial assessment element. The review had been prompted by the City Council's ambition to increase the numbers of children in achieving permanence and stability through leaving care via Special Guardianship. The report detailed the key elements of the proposed financial policy.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) approves Coventry's policy and practice for the assessment and award of Special Guardianship allowances with immediate effect for new cases and to be phased in for on-going cases from their annual review or at an earlier stage if changes in the case details require.**

#### 40. **The Voice of the Child – Recommendations From Task and Finish Group**

The Cabinet Member considered a report, appended to which were recommendations arising out of the Task and Finish Group of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2), which had explored how the voice of the child in care is currently heard by the Council and the ways in which this could be improved.

To help inform their deliberations, the Task and Finish Group had heard evidence from a small number of stakeholders within the Council. The stakeholders included representatives from training, education and Social Work Teams and Independent Reviewing Officers. The emerging outcomes of the review were also discussed at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board and Voices of Care Council.

A Briefing Note, which detailed consideration of this item by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) at their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2014, was circulated at the meeting. Councillor Abbott, Chair of the Scrutiny Board, and Councillor M Mutton, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, attended the meeting for consideration of this item and the Cabinet Member expressed his thanks and appreciation for of all the work undertaken in this regard.

**RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People):-**

- (a) Notes the report of the Task and Finish Group – The Voice of a Child as appended to the report**
- (b) Notes the comments received following the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) consideration of this issue**
- (c) Approves the recommendations detailed in paragraph 11 of the Task and Finish Group's report, particularly in relation to achieving an online child-friendly solution and the introduction of a telephone number that is dedicated, local, easy to remember and widely publicised.**

#### 41. **Outstanding Issues**

The Cabinet Member noted a report of the Executive Director, Resources that identified those issues on which further reports had been requested and were outstanding, so that progress could be monitored.

#### 42. **Any Other Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

**NOTE:** The Cabinet Member deferred consideration of the following report to a future meeting:

#### **Family Placement Service Update Report**

(Meeting closed at: 2.25pm)