



Leicester
City Council

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2009 at 5.30pm

PRESENT

Councillor Corrall – Chair
Councillor Bajaj – Vice-Chair

Councillor Johnson
Councillor Newcombe
Councillor Senior
Councillor Desai (for Cllr Naylor)
Councillor Scuplak

Co-opted Members

Mr Mohammed - Parent Governor (Primary /Special Needs)
Alauddin Al-Azad -

Also In Attendance

Councillor Dempster Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Schools.

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22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Suleman and Mr M Asquith, Church of England Diocese.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they had in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations were made.

29. ANNUAL REPORT ON PRIVATE FOSTERING 2009

The Strategic Director, Children submitted a report that updated the Committee on work with children who were privately fostered and highlighted the numbers of fostering arrangements that were notified to the local authority and the response made to these statutory notifications. It was stated that there had

been 37 notifications in 2008/09 up from 23 in 2007/08 but most arrangements were brief in length. Details were also given of the numbers of visits that met the timescale requirement with it stated that most initial visits met the 7 day requirement and those that didn't were very close. In relation to publicity it was stated that it was intended to hold a publicity event within the next year.

Following questions from Members it was noted that if there were issues after the first year the team would seek to ascertain why the child was not with their parents and may have to take the child into care. In relation to country of origin breakdown it was noted that a wide breakdown could be provided but that the figures were small though it was acknowledged that country of origin did not impact on the service offered. It was noted that the Council would intervene where children were not being looked after and place the child with Council approved foster parents. Where people knew of a child that was not being looked after through private fostering arrangements they were urged to let the team know.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee acknowledge the content of the report and its conclusions; and
2. That the Committee supports further publicity within the coming year to raise public awareness and awareness in schools of the need to notify all new, or proposed private fostering arrangements.