

## **PUBLIC**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 5 March 2014.

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs D Charles (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs G Birkin, J Frudd, B Lewis, R Mihaly, D Walton and B Wright

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Freeborn and Ms C Tattersfield.

**08/14**      **MINUTES**      **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**09/14**      **HEALTHWATCH DERBYSHIRE**      Ms H Hart presented a progress report on the work of Healthwatch Derbyshire. This concerned the publication of the first quarterly newsletter “Speak Out Report”. This document reviewed the work of Healthwatch to date and was aimed at the public of Derbyshire.

Ms Hart also informed the Committee that Healthwatch would be undertaking a piece of work that would focus on domiciliary care services. Engagement work was proposed and there would be close liaison with the Adult Care Department. A findings report would be published in the Autumn.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

**10/14**      **CORPORATE PARENTING**      Members were invited to give reports on visits to Children’s Homes that they had undertaken.

Councillors Frudd and Birkin reported on their visit to Evergreen.

Councillor Wright reported on his visit to Stephenson House.

Councillor Mihaly reported on his visit to Fair View.

Councillor Charles reported on her visit to Stephenson House.

Councillor Lewis reported that he would be visiting Eastwood Grange private Home in the near future.

One issue that had been highlighted by a Member was the need for volunteers with a particular skill to be available and willing to give their time to the young people who had an interest in an activity. The way in which this linked to the existing mentoring scheme should be reported to the Committee.

Members were encouraged to undertake regular visits to Homes in their locality and to report back on their findings. A pro form had been developed for this purpose.

All members of the Committee would be offered safeguarding training. The Chair would circulate a document – “10 things you need to know about Corporate Parenting”.

At the next meeting, consideration would be given to the findings and recommendations arising from Ofsted’s inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and Care Leavers and the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board..

**RESOLVED** that the comments of Members following their visits be welcomed and a further update report from the Strategic Director be presented to the next meeting of the Committee, addressing the points raised by Members following their visits.

**11/14      UPDATE FROM SUB GROUPS**      The Chair gave an update on the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Sub Group and the Equality and Diversity Sub Group.

The Safeguarding Sub Group had developed a feedback form for use by Members following visits to Children’s Homes. Information gathering would continue and visits to Area Teams were planned.

The Equality and Diversity Sub Group would meet on 8 April.

**12/14      WORK PROGRAMME**      A report was presented on the progress on the Committee’s work programme for 2013/14.

Councillor Walton suggested that the Committee may wish to review the operation of the Children and Younger Adults Department and the links that were in place and services provided to schools. He would complete a review suggestion form for consideration by the Management Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.