

Agenda

STATUTORY / MANDATORY / DISCRETIONARY SPEND (ACHIEVEMENT AND LEARNING) TASK & FINISH GROUP

Date: Wednesday 3 February 2010

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE		
2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST		
3 INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN Brenda Jennings, Chairman of the Achievement and Learning Task and Finish Group, will open the meeting.	10:00am	
4 COMMISSIONING OF PLACEMENTS Contributor: Iain Campbell, Safeguarding Lead Commissioner, Access to Resource Team, Children's Services, Joint Commissioning Unit Purpose: Iain Campbell will give a perspective on cross-regional commissioning placements, monitoring, contracting and costs. Background papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to Resources – team description	10:10am	1 - 2
5 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC To resolve to exclude the press and public as the following item is exempt by virtue of Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual		



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Contributors:

Diana Large, Divisional Manager, Permanency and Placements
Liz Fillingham, Team Manager, Children in Care Under 14 Team South
Isabella Docherty, Team Manager, Children in Care 14+
Joan Ferguson, Team Manager, Fostering Recruitment Team
Sandra Carnall, Social Worker, Children in Care Under 14 Team South
Cecilia Bool, Assistant Team Manager, Care and Protection Team North

Purpose:

Diana Large and representatives of her team will give an overview of the work of social workers in out-of-county placements and will present case studies which will demonstrate the complexity of this area of work.

Paper:

- Family Placement Recruitment Team - overview

1:00PM CLOSE

*For further information please contact: Helen Wailling on 01296 383614
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Members

Mrs M Aston
Mr N Brown
Mr N Hussain

Mrs B Jennings (C)
Mr M Phillips
Mr B Roberts

Co-opted Members

Mr J Bajina, Parent Governor, Secondary Sector
Mr R Davey, Church of England

Access to Resources Team

Aim

The Access to Resources Team is part of the Joint Commissioning Unit within the Commissioning and Business Improvement Division of Children's Services. The team provides a single access point to provision for all children and young people whose specific needs cannot be supported within current Buckinghamshire County Council resources.

It presents a cohesive approach to placement planning across education, safeguarding and health.

We will ensure that external providers:

- can meet the identified needs and evidence improved outcomes for the young person requiring placement;
- offer best value services;
- are registered and approved by DCSF and OFSTED;
- will sign up to the cross-regional protocols for contracting and monitoring arrangements.

Structure

The team comprises two specialist Access to Resources Commissioners who have significant combined practical knowledge and experience in the field of special education and safeguarding. One leads in education led placements, the other leads in safeguarding led placements. They also deputise for one another. The officers are supported by an Access to Resources Business Support Specialist, and a Business Support Assistant

Roles and responsibilities of the team

- **Advising on suitability of placements**
Providing a range of evidence which identifies compatible provisions
- **Raising standards and quality of services used**
Ensuring best outcomes and best value for money for children placed externally
- **Researching new/alternative out-of-county placements**
Having up-to-date knowledge of existing/new providers and their full range of services

Continued overleaf



- **Centrally-commissioning appropriate placements**
Using sound evidence-based judgments and expertise with approved/accredited providers
- **Establishing suitable contracting arrangements**
Working with NASS and Regional/Cross Regional Partnerships to negotiate and develop the use of National Contracts
- **Ensuring best practice between internal and external providers**
Chairing Residential Schools Heads of Care Meetings, reporting to Residential Safeguarding Group
- **Fee negotiations**
Using strategic joint cross regional working to ensure all fee increases are fully investigated
- **Monitoring current out-of-county placements**
Statutory responsibility focussing on standards, quality, and improved pupil outcomes
- **Working regionally and cross-regional working**
Active members of SCRIP, CCRAg and Pan London Steering Groups, which includes developing strategic commissioning working arrangements
- **Providing quality data/analysis relating to external placements**
Informing future commissioning strategies

Contact details

The Access to Resources team is based in:

Room 308, 3rd Floor, County Hall, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UZ

For further information contact:

Education lead

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Contracts

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Business Support

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Jenni Sabin E-mail: jsabin@buckscc.gov.uk Tel: 01296 383005

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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