

19 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

20 FOSTERING INSPECTION

Paulette Omenka Thompson, Head of Children in Care advised the Board of an announced fostering inspection taking place between 13-15 December 2011 with feedback being provided on day 4, 16 December 2011. Two inspectors would meet with foster carers, focus groups looking at themes of support for foster carers and also with the Chair of the Board, Councillor David Mellen. The inspectors would look at various aspects of the service including how foster carers were recruited, trained and retained.

A report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Board in January 2012 to provide feedback received from the inspection.

21 CHILDREN IN CARE PROFILING TOOL

Tracy Nurse, Service Manager, Social Care and Shelley Nicholls, Service Manager, Youth Offending Team, gave a presentation on the Profiling Tool for Children in Care.

The following key information was provided:

- following a serious case review, it was established that there was a need to have a process for identifying the most vulnerable children in care;
- all Children in Care (CiC) had vulnerabilities but a small group presented significant challenges to a number of agencies since they had multiple vulnerabilities that placed them at greater risk;
- the profiling tool was developed by the Task and Finish Group and was being piloted to see how effective it was in profiling risk and targeting intervention in order to reduce the risk;
- guidance had also been produced to assist professionals in completing the profiling tool;
- key indicators of risk included suicide attempts, absconding, substance abuse, not eating/over eating and sexual exploitation, arson, gender issues and children who had witnessed extreme levels of violence;
- benefits of using the profiling tool included contributing to the provision of a more effective service for the most vulnerable young people in care and assisting in reducing and managing professional anxieties since the multi agency group would be part of the process;
- the profiling tool would be used when the social worker or member of the professional group believed the risks to the child were high and could be triggered at the following meetings:
 - 72 hour review
 - 20 day review
 - 3 and 6 monthly reviews;
 - discharge planning meetings;
 - strategy meetings;
 - secure panels;
- once completed the tool would be shared with all relevant agencies and reviewed at all the Looked After Reviews in order to determine if the risks had been effectively