

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD  
2 MARCH 2006**

**SUMMARY REPORT – MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL/  
FIVE RIVERS PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**COUNCILLOR PAUL THOMPSON  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDRENS SERVICES**

**TERRY REDMAYNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Corporate Parenting Board with a summary of issues considered by the Middlesbrough Council and Five Rivers Partnership Board during 2005.

**BACKGROUND & EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

2. Five Rivers (Project) Limited has been working in partnership with Middlesbrough Council since December 2001, to provide the residential care services for children and young people 'looked after' by Middlesbrough Council.
3. The Partnership Board was established in January 2002 and has continued to meet on a quarterly basis to oversee the partnership arrangements. This is additional to contract monitoring and operational meetings that are held on a regular basis.
4. The remit of the Board is attached at Appendix 1.

## **SUMMARY OF ISSUES**

5. The Partnership Board met on four occasions in 2005: 11 January; 12 April; 12 July; and 18 October.
6. Carol Perkins (Five Rivers Regional Manager) produces a detailed quarterly report for the meeting, which covers staffing; progress of young people and outcomes from Inspections, Rota Visits and Regulation 33 visits.
7. The service has continued to provide a high quality of care evidenced by Regulation 33 reports (monthly independent reports) and Inspection ratings.
8. There have been a number of admissions and discharges, which are considered by the Operational Managers. These have to take into account the need for placements; the 'statement of purpose' of the home and the mix of young people. This has meant that there have been vacancies during the year.
9. There have been no significant community issues, which is extremely positive and an indication of the interaction of staff with neighbours.
10. The focus, during 2005, has been the purchase by the Council of the two properties and agreement to a revised contract to reflect this arrangement. This was finally agreed and completed on 31 January 2006.
11. A recurring issue at the Board has been educational provision for the young people within Five Rivers. This has led to additional staffing pressures on the service itself, in addition to issues for the young people. The situation is closely monitored via the separate operational meetings.

## **CONCLUSION**

12. The Partnership Board has continued to oversee the arrangements in place for the residential care of children looked after. The Board receives detailed reports on all aspects of the Partnership arrangement and monitors these. The revision of the contract and financial arrangements will consolidate the Partnership.

## **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS**

13. Not applicable to this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

14. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the information relating to the Partnership Board activity.

## **REASONS**

15. The Partnership Board oversees a key provision within services for Looked After Children.
16. The Corporate Parenting Board has a key role in ensuring the quality of care for young people in residential accommodation.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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## APPENDIX I

### Remit of the Partnership Board

1. To monitor compliance of the contract between Middlesbrough Council and Five Rivers.
2. To receive:
  - Rota visitor reports and Regulation 33 visit reports;
  - Registration and Inspection reports;
  - Information on complaints and compliments;
  - Reports of untoward incidents;
  - Activity data;
  - Financial monitoring
3. To contribute to strategic planning of residential child care provision within Middlesbrough.
4. To monitor achievements against performance indicators and/or quality standards.
5. To determine any review or revision to the service delivery model.
6. To produce an Annual Report for submission to Middlesbrough Council Corporate Parenting Board.