

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING (FORMAL)
HELD AT 6:30PM, ON
WEDNESDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2017
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors Bisby, (Chairman (Chair), Bull, Harper, Hussain, Lane, Okonkowski, Saltmarsh (Vice-Chairman) and Stokes.

Also in Attendance: Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services. Councillor Goodwin, Chairman of Children and Education Scrutiny Committee

Officers Present:

Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Services
Andy Pallas, The Adolescent and Children Trust Head of Service (TACT)
Sue King, Team Manager Adoption
Sarah Thompson, Team Manager Passenger Transport
Deborah Spencer, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Dr Mona Aslam, Doctor for Children in Care
Jenny Weeden, Senior Youth Engagement and Participation Officer
Jess Palmer, Youth Engagement and Participation Officer

Also Present:

Philip Gilbert M.B.E, Foster Carer Forum Representative
Sarah Purvis, Foster Carer Forum Representative
Heath Purvis, Foster Carer Forum representative

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Johnson and Bond. Councillor Hussain was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Johnson.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Saltmarsh declared that she had a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 Permanency Report in that she sat on the adoption and fostering panels.

14. MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

It was agreed that agenda item 8, Transport Report would be discussed next.

15. TRANSPORT REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the outcome of a meeting to discuss the transport provision for Children in Care (CiC) that were cared for by foster carers.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update of the outcome of a meeting held on 27 June 2017 to discuss the transport issues and to identify a solution to resolve to the issues.

The Team Manager Passenger Transport and Head of TACT introduced the item to Members and asked them to review transport arrangements for CiC with TACT and the Passenger Transport progress on actions agreed at the meeting on 27 June 2017 and raise any questions they had with officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The change for foster carers allowing them to directly contact the Passenger Transport team had been reported to be effective. However, it had not addressed the issue of where the children had gone once collected by the drivers. In addition there was no system currently to address the communication issue with foster carers in terms of the transport booked.
- A new supplier had been liaised with and discussions were being held in terms of better transport services and communication issues for foster carers. It was planned to provide details about the volunteer and other driver details in order to alleviate foster carers worries.
- There had been a data protection issue in terms of sharing the contact details of drivers and a solution was to be explored further. In the meantime, foster carers were encouraged to contact passenger transport directly to alleviate issues or worries they had with transport arrangements for CiC.
- Arrangements were underway to continue with improved logistical arrangements to ensure that CiC would arrive at school on time.
- It had been anticipated that the move to Google would provide the team adequate arrangements for secure data sharing in future.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

ACTION AGREED

Councillor Ayres would provide an update to Members of the informal Corporate Parenting Committee following her visit to the Passenger Transport team.

16. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAMPION FOR FINANCE AND BENEFITS

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the vacant champion position for Finance and Benefits and the proposal to appoint Councillor Bond.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a proposal to appoint Councillor Bond to the vacant position.

The Chairman introduced the item to Members and asked them consider the nomination for Councillor Bond to be appointed to the position of Finance and Benefits Champion.

The Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and agreed to appoint Councillor Bond to the position of Champion for Finance and Benefits.

17. FOSTER CARER FORUM UPDATE

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the recent activities and outcomes of the Foster Carer Forum meetings.

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider and note the update provided by foster carers.

Philip Gilbert MBE introduced the report and provided an update of the discussions and actions arising from the Foster Carers Forum meetings.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- There had been couple of meetings held with TACT and foster carers to discuss the transport issues and felt satisfied to know the issues raised were progressing.
- The 'Staying Put' criteria was being updated, especially in terms of inclusion of TACT into the terms of reference.
- The structure of foster carer allowances and qualifications were being discussed with TACT.
- There was a Christmas party planned for carers, which Members were welcome to attend.
- There had been a successful buddy system introduced to support new carers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report.

18. UPDATE FROM THE PARTICIPATION OFFICER FOR CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the work of the Children in Care Council and the outcome of their discussions at meetings and events organised.

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider and note the contents.

The Senior Participation Officer for Children in Care Council introduced the item to Members and asked them to note the update and raise any queries with officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- New members had joined the Children in Care Council.
- Care leavers were developing a film which and would be shared with Corporate Parenting Committee Members at their next informal meeting with the CICC.
- There would be two award ceremonies organised, one for younger children to include a fun day and a second for the older children which would incorporate a sit down meal format.
- The Youth Engagement Officer (YEO) was due to leave the Local Authority, however, there would be a continuation with the level service that had been provided previously. Members thanked the YEO for her contribution to Peterborough's CiC.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report.

19. PERMANENCY REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the services provided through TACT for Fostering and Adoption.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline of the services provided by TACT (The Adolescent and Children Trust).

The Adolescent and Children Trust Head of Service introduced the report to Members and requested them to note the report and raise any queries they had with lead officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The family rights group service had operated across the United Kingdom, and TACT had identified some funding for the initiative. The service would help families to resolve their own issues in order to avoid families coming into the care system.
- The new 24/7 out of hours support service for foster carers was resourced by staff in the TACT team and by the management team for more complex issues.
- Foster carers commented that it was comforting to know that the foster care support system was available on a 24/7 basis; as previously it had closed at 10pm.
- The recruitment process to appoint to the Registered Manager for the Fostering Service (IFA) through Ofsted was underway and the results would be announced in due course.
- The in-house service provided by Barnardos that conducted the return to home interviews for children and young people, whom had gone missing from home, had experienced a high frequency of interview turnover. The reason for high turnover missing interviews had been due to some children who were more challenging and some issues that related to repeat offenders. Each missing episode required a return to home interview, which made the figures high.
- Children tended to go missing in the warmer weather, which was mainly attributed to the party season.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report.

20. CHILD SEX EXPLOITATION AND MISSING FROM CARE REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to children and young people in care that go missing who were vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing from Care.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline in respect of current situation around children and young people who go missing and children and young people who were vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation. The report covered all children in Peterborough that were at risk of missing and at the risk of CSE. The current figure stood at 21 females flagged as at risk, with 10 of these cases related to looked after children. These figures were in a population of 357 and the recent figures had improved. There had been a small minority of cases that had a disability.

The Assistant Director Children's Social Care introduced the report to Members and asked them to note the update and raise any issues they had with lead officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Although there had been no dedicated CSE team for a two year period, the service provision had been absorbed within other Council resources as this was a more efficient way of tracking the issues. The police also had a dedicated team that linked into the Missing Exploited and Trafficked (MET) hub and would identify those that were at risk of other issues such as county lines gangs, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, drugs and alcohol issues.
- There had also been multi agency CSE groups that met regularly to draw together data on the issues in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to identify the reasons behind Missing and Exploitation issues. There had also been focus group meetings

on a strategic level in conjunction with the police pulling together themes and trends on Missing and CSE cases throughout the county, which had also included areas such Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

- A national register would be updated to track those that had completely disappeared from the Missing or at risk of CSE systems. These incidents were rare and mainly related to unaccompanied minors that would have run away from a either a foster carer placement or other support arrangements put in place by the LA.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

21. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Children in Care and Care Leaver placements.

The purpose of the report was to provide members with an overview in respect of the numbers of children and young people currently being looked after by the Authority and to provide a breakdown of the types of placements in which they were living. The report also provided information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

The Head of Service Corporate Parenting introduced the report and requested Members to note the content of the report and raise any queries they had with lead officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Although the downward trend issues for placement stability and length of placement for children in care was not an ideal situation, Peterborough's figures were not performing particularly poorly. The placement issues were being addressed together with TACT in order to aim to place CiC in the right type of placement.
- The parameters in terms of capturing CiC placements could not be changed within the performance report as the targets were set nationally. However, the report could provide Members with additional dialogue in terms of a CiC placement which had changed within a short space of time and the actions that had been undertaken by TACT to resolve.
- The reasons behind the Care Leavers, NEET and not in suitable accommodation were due to young people being pulled into criminal activity, which had increased custody placements. Also, there had not been enough suitable accommodation provision available for Care Leavers in place. These issues were being investigated and there were many targets in place to improve the situation. Councillor Saltmarsh had also been exploring the issues in her role as the Corporate Parenting Housing Champion.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

AGREED ACTION

The Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and agreed that:

The Assistant Director Children's Social Care would provide expanded dialogue within the performance reports in regards to the reasons behind placement instability and what was being undertaken to address the issues.

22. HEALTH REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the health needs of the Looked After Children population in Peterborough.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview of the Clinical Commissioning Groups activities to ensure that robust monitoring and quality assurance systems were in place to meet the needs of Looked After Children. The report also included an overview in respect of closing the gap for children with behavioural and attachment difficulties.

The Designated Nurse for Children in Care introduced the report and requested Members to note the content of the report and raise any queries they had with lead officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services advised the Committee that the reporting mechanism for an initial health assessment had continued to cause an issue with meeting the target figures of 20 days. However, there were measures in place to address the reporting processes and implement the improvements required. Members would receive an update on the reporting progress in due course.
- The data on dental check reporting had also been an issue and was being investigated and had been expected to improve following an audit into health assessments. Initially the dental checks were being undertaken, however, there had been issues over how the data was being captured.
- Children in Care with behavioural and attachment issues and the initiative to close the gap, had not been classed by CAMH to align with mental health issue. There were other options being explored to close the gap for this cohort which was being reviewed with the CPFT (Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Peterborough Social Care Clinicians. A proposal would be reviewed by the Joint Commissioning Unity (JCU) in due course.
- In some cases there had been some play therapy provided to CiC with A&BD through various other services, however, it was felt that these provisions were not always the right solution. There was a need to identify the right type of therapy for these children.
- The timescale for CAMH assessments had reduced for mental health services, but as alluded to, closing the gap for CiC with A&BD would not fall within the CAMH service provision.
- The joint commissioning JCU had set the task and finish group a number of action points in regards to how the needs of CiC with A&BD could be met in order to identify a budget provision.
- The transformation funding exercise being carried out with CAMH was in its early stage. The outcome was due to be provided to the JCU and was hoped to meet the need to close the gap for CiC with A&BD.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed a recommendation to the JCU.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recognised the important need to provide support services to Children in Care with attachment and behavioural difficulties and recommend to the Joint Commissioning Unit that they identify a way forward to develop the support required to close the gap.

AGREED ACTION

The Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and agreed that:

1. The Designated Nurse for Children in Care would provide Members with the outcome of the audit on a selection of health assessments to be conducted over the period between October and December 2017;
2. The Assistant Director of Children's Social Care would provide Members with regular briefing notes to outline the outcome of any discussion held with the JCU in regards to the CAMHS transformation exercise being conducted to highlight any potential resources that could be offered to closing the gap for children with behavioural and attachment difficulties; and
3. For the Chairman of Corporate Parenting Committee to write the the JCU advising them of the Committee's support and their recommendation regarding the need for the provision of a service to CiC with attachment and behavioural difficulties.

23. MEMBERS ISSUES

Members that were not part of the core CPP membership, but held corporate parenting responsibilities, were invited raise issues they had with regard to the services provided to Children in Care (CiC).

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** that there were no issues to raise.

24. Work Programme

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Committee's Work Programme.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a draft Work Programme of items to schedule for the municipal year 2017/2018.

The Chairman introduced the report and requested the Committee to note the work programme and suggest any items they wished to be included.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the Committee's Work Programme for 2017/2018.

AGREED ACTION

The Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and agreed that TACT would provide an update to Members on the progress of the transport review, which was to be provided at the informal meeting on 31 January 2018. The update would also to be shared with Foster Carers as a briefing note.

25. Date of Next Meeting

The next informal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee was due to be held on Wednesday, 31 January 2018.

The next formal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee was due to be held on Wednesday, 21 March 2018.

Chairman
6:30pm – 8:20 pm

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