

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING (FORMAL)  
HELD AT 6:30PM, ON  
WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2018  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors Bisby, (Chair), Ayres, Harper, Lane, Jones, Bond, Saltmarsh, Smith and Aitken.

**Officers Present:**

Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Services  
Sue King, Head of Service, The Adolescent and Children's Trust (TACT)  
Myra O'Farrell, Head of Corporate Parenting  
Jenny Weeden, Senior Youth Engagement and Participation Officer  
Pat Carrington, Assistant Director Skills and Employment / Principal  
Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council / City College Peterborough  
Alice Prosser, Children in Care Officer Youth Voice Worker  
Dee Glover, Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care  
Doctor Mona Aslam, Doctor for Looked After Children  
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

**Also Present:**

Jo Murchie, Foster Carer Forum  
Stephen Greene, Foster Carer Forum

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stokes. Councillor Aitken was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Stokes.

**14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**15. MINUTES OF THE MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**16. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION PROPOSED NEW POSITION REPORT**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to updating the Committee's terms of reference in respect to Champion Member positions.

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee consider recommending to Council that there should be a change to the terms of reference in order for the Committee to create and appoint to Corporate Parenting Champion positions on an annual basis; and subject to Council approving the updated terms of reference, to create a new Champion position to support Effective Care Planning and appoint Councillor Dennis Jones to the position for the remainder of the 2018/2019 municipal year.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained the purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider the report and make a recommendation to Council that the proposed changes were introduced.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and the agreed the recommendation and action points raised.

## **AGREED ACTION**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and:

1. Recommended to Council that the Committee's terms of reference would be updated to allow the Committee to create and appoint to Corporate Parenting Champion positions on a yearly basis; and
2. Subject to Council approving the updated terms of reference, the Committee agreed to create a new Champion position to support Effective Care Planning and appoint Councillor Dennis Jones to the position for the remainder of the 2018/2019 municipal year.

## **17. UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARERS FORUM**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Foster Carer Forum and the outcome of their discussions at meetings and events.

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

A Foster Carer representative introduced the item to Members and asked them to note the update and ask any questions.

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

- A recent survey of Foster Carers had been conducted on behalf of Peterborough Permanency Service with 52 households responding, over 40%. The results indicated that The Adolescent and Children's Trust (TACT) in Peterborough supported families positively. The service had a priority to focus on children and young people and that supervisors and social workers had also provided a good service, including the out of hours service.
- Clarity was provided on paragraph 4.16 concerning the 'Out of Hours Service' of the report. Members were advised that the Fostering Network Survey covered the United Kingdom as a whole where the service was reported as poor, however the local survey results indicated that Peterborough 'Out of Hours Service' was good.
- The Fostering Network had no formal training programmes in place, whereas in Peterborough a training brochure was produced annually and was regularly updated. Training opportunities included training for children with disabilities, internet safety, safer carer plans, Makaton training and safeguarding children, which focused on individual needs.
- Training was available to all carers and included online courses. The Makaton training was highly regarded.
- There had been no negative comments received regarding the carer review procedures. Going forward, foster carer reviews would be undertaken every three years.
- The Staying Put Policy had been considered to work well, however the wording in the agreement was currently being reviewed to make it more fit for purpose.

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 introduced the item on behalf of the Children in Care Council and asked Members to note the report and raise any queries they had with officers.

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

- The Children in Care Council video mentioned in the report would be shown over the Easter period 2019, at a venue in London and invitations would include some Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee.
- Ofsted had provided the children's summary to their report and this would be sent to Children in Care in due course with a covering letter.
- All Committee Members were invited to the Christmas Party organised by the Children in Charge Youth Club in December 2018.

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

## 19. VIRTUAL SCHOOLS ATTAINMENT REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the interim in relation to education attainment for children in care for Key stages 1 - 5.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline of the interim results and the projects such as attachment awareness being introduced to help encourage children to focus on learning and improve the results. This data had been provided by the individual schools and the data had not yet been validated by the Department for Education (DfE).

In addition, Members were informed that the learning projects operated through the pupil premium, which aimed to help children in care focus on learning had experienced positive outcomes.

The Head of Virtual Schools 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 number of CiC placed out of the city awaiting school places had reduced from eight to four. There had also been issues experienced with some CiC allocated learning hours. These issues were being experienced with out of the city academy schools and were being addressed with the Director of Education and the Local Authority.
- The validated results would provide detailed comparative data with the Eastern Region and the Authority's statistical neighbours and would provide details of Children in Care.
- The Attachment Awareness Project was an ongoing project which would be monitored over three years.
- The Pupil Referral Unit had closely reached capacity, however, CiC were given priority.

- The Pupil Referral had operated outside of the Local Authority, although the Director for Education was involved in the operation and was a Chair of Governors as well as Peterborough City Council Councillor.
- The issues being experienced for CiC school placements, which had also included those with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), were being addressed.
- An additional the Peterborough Virtual Schools supplementary report produced in May 2018, would be shared with Members.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed the action points raised.

### **AGREED ACTION**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care would share with the Committee the Peterborough Virtual Schools supplementary report, which was produced in May 2018.

## **20. SEND UPDATE IN RELATION TO CHILDREN IN CARE 0 – 25**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) update for CiC

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline in respect of education for children and young people with disabilities who were looked after by Peterborough City Council (PCC) or were Care Leavers and identified as having SEND. The report covered an overview of the current arrangements in terms of looked after children and children that were looked after for 75 nights or more as part of a care package.

The Head of Corporate Parenting introduced the report to Members and asked them to note or raise any queries they had with officers. Members were also asked to refer to item 2.1 of the report and note that it had referred to education and not health as stated therein.

The Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care also advised Members that appropriate education facilities were not always found for children placed out of area within the statutory 20 days however online tuition service was provided where possible.

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

- There was an Early Years Advisor within the Virtual School Team with responsibility for monitoring all children in pre-school settings. Government funding was available for 2 – 3 year olds and if an increased need was identified for a child, they would be referred to the local SEND Team. Following on, the child would have an early years Pupil Education Plan (PEP) and would be monitored throughout.
- Members were concerned about CiC being placed at schools out of area with a lack of placements. The National Head teachers for Virtual Schools were due to send a letter to the secretary of state regarding the national issues of CiC school placements outside of all areas.
- A recent peer review video on CiC with special educational needs had included some of their aspirations for the future, which was encouraging.

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

## **AGREED ACTION**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Cabinet Member for Education Skills and University and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services would endorse a letter to be drafted by the Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual Schools for Children in Care, addressed to the Secretary of State, to highlight the Committee's concerns raised about school placement allocation for children in care placed out of area.

### **21. WORK & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE MOVING ON FROM CARE**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the progress on the work and training opportunities for young people leaving care.

The purpose of the report was to provide members with an overview in respect of the progress of supporting young people in care or care leavers towards sustainable education, training and employment and offering opportunity for career pathways.

The Assistant Director Skills and Employment Principal introduced the report and requested Members to note the content 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:

- Apprenticeships were undertaken within the workplace and across the City and there were more apprenticeships than people wanted to apply for.
- Support was offered by the City College Peterborough for students to apply for external apprenticeships outside of Council vacancies. The candidates would be required to attend an interview process and would then be appointed by the external employer. The apprenticeship programme would be delivered through whichever provider the employer had chosen.
- Peterborough City College also acted as a matching agency for companies that were searching for apprenticeship candidates.
- The apprenticeship assessments and qualifications were currently changing between standards and frameworks systems depending on which qualification the position had been aimed at.
- It was proposed for Council partners, such as SERCO and Vivacity to provide care leavers with priority placements into apprenticeships for care leavers and this could be a condition built into future partner contracts.
- All apprenticeships were advertised nationally through a website.
- Members thanked the Councillors that had been involved in the work to include apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers within the Council and partner employment policies.
- Care Leavers were provided with information about available apprenticeships through a working group and the Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) Team. The advice provided to care leavers would be directed by professionals within the apprenticeships field.
- Work was ongoing from year 11 between several groups to identify those care leavers that required assistance to plan for their future career options.
- Care leavers missing from education were tracked by the NEET Team. This would be undertaken by investigating where they had been educated before they went missing, late night phone calls and door knocking would also be undertaken.

- The alternative apprenticeship provision out of the area, tended to be facilitated by private organisations or specialist providers.
- When applying for apprenticeships, care leavers were only proposed for positions where they had the required skill set.
- Prospective external employers were not usually told that a student was a care leaver, as that information was on a need to know basis. However, the Council and contracted partners would know if a care leaver was applying for an apprenticeship as this information was pertinent to the appointment process.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed the action points raised.

### **ACTION AGREED**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the Assistant Director Skills and Employment Principal:

1. Would provide the Committee with a link to the national apprenticeships database; and
2. Provide clarification over the locations of the positive study or training opportunities available for care leavers.

## **22. REPORT ON MISSING FROM CARE AND CHILD SEX EXPLOITATION/CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION UPDATE**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the current position in regards to children and young people who go missing and children and young people who were vulnerable to Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview in respect of the current situation around children and young people who go missing and children and young people who are vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Assistant Director Children's Services introduced the annual report and explained that the report included all missing children, not only CiC.

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

- The report covered the period from April 2017 to March 2018.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, confirmed that she received a weekly report of CiC missing for more than 24 hours, which also included information such as the number of missing episodes and the outcomes.

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

## **23. PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### **23.1 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SCORECARD**

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.

In addition it was highlighted that the figure for CiC had risen slightly, however, it had been lower than the national average per 10,000. Members were advised that safeguarding initiatives being implemented to reduce the number of CiC.

The Assistant Director of Children's Services 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:

- Members commented that they pleased that the Children in Care statutory visits had risen to 97.3%.
- TACT were working on a number initiatives to reduce the number of Children in Care.
- The inconsistency was noted between two elements of the report regarding missing children being unknown to social services and the majority being CiC. This confusion occurred as one report referred to an annual report and one referred only to the month of September 2018.
- There had been only a small percentage of CiC who go missing.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed the action points raised.

#### **AGREED ACTION**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that the Head of Adolescent and Children's Trust would provide a briefing note on the innovations currently being undertaken to reduce the number of children placed in care.

## **23.2 HEALTH REPORT**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to health assessments, the purpose was to provide an update on the timescales associated with health assessments between July and September 2018.

Dr Mona Aslam, Designated Doctor for Looked After Children introduced the report and advised Members that the report looked at assessments conducted when children first come into care and at six monthly or annual intervals for children both placed in and out of area. Members were also advised that each Local Authority would attend to their own children before those out of area and the effects of this were being discussed and reviewed at a national level.

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

- The quality of the health assessments undertaken for CiC that had been placed in Peterborough from another Authority area was of a high standard. It was uncertain whether the health assessments offered to CiC from outside the Authority area were undertaken in a timely manner.
- The performance figures for CiC health assessment reviews had fallen slightly due to an administrative issue, however, it was anticipated that the figures would improve by the next reporting cycle.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed the action points raised.

## **AGREED ACTION**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that the Dedicated Nurse for Children in Care would provide a briefing note to highlight:

1. The issues being experienced nationally in relation to health assessments for children in care that were placed outside of their Authority area; and
2. The timeliness of the out of area health assessments for CiC.

## **24. MEMBERS ISSUES**

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

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

## **25. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Committee's Work Programme to provide Members with a Work Programme of items to schedule for the municipal year 2018/2019.

Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Services 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 the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/2019 and agreed the action point raised.

## **AGREED ACTION**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that:

The TACT Permanency and Placements reports due to be presented to Committee on 20 March 2019, would include what innovations were being introduced to reduce the number of children taken into care.

## **26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next informal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee was due to be 16 January 2019 and the next formal meeting would be held on 20 March 2019.

Chairman  
6:30pm – 20:08pm