

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING (FORMAL)  
HELD AT 6:30PM, ON  
WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2019  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors Bisby, Bond, Ayres, Smith, Stokes, Hussain and Lane.

**Officers Present:**

Myra O'Farrell, Head of Corporate Parenting  
Andy Pallas, Executive Director Children's Services, The Adolescent and Children's Trust (TACT) Peterborough  
Dr Aslam, Doctor for Looked After Children  
Deborah Spencer, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children  
Sue King, Head of Service TACT  
Jenny Weeden, Senior Youth Engagement and Participation Officer  
Helen Card, Independent Chair, Family and Communities  
Marie Saunders, Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

**Also Present:**

Stephen Green, Foster Carer Forum

**27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harper.

**28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were made.

**29. MINUTES OF THE MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendments:

1. The Director of Education was not the Chair of Governors, but was Councillor Coles, a Local Councillor.
2. That corrections were made on page 10 of the minutes in respect of the Designated Nurse's job title.

**30. 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 consider and note the update provided by foster carers.

Mr Stephen Greene, Foster Carer Forum Representative, introduced the report and provided an update of the discussions and actions arising from the Foster Carers Forum FCF meetings. Members were also informed that the main issues being dealt with by the FCF had been the CiC passports and the terminology used when a Care Leaver (CL) transferred into a staying put arrangement.

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

- Members commented that the recent Foster Carer events held had sounded very successful.
- The Birth Children's Group, was a committee that explored ways in which to engage more effectively with birth children of foster families.
- The terminology used when a Care Leaver (CL) had transferred into a staying put agreement had been described as a tenant in the foster family's home. The terminology was being reviewed by TACT with the aim to introduce acceptable wording around the CL living status.
- The arrangements detailed within the report for out of hours travel for Children in Care had improved. Members commented that they were happy with the reassurances provided regarding the improved arrangements.
- The Foster Carer Forum continued to work on ideas for respite care support for foster families with children that have disabilities. A number of foster carers had also undertaken courses to support CiC with disabilities. Ideas were also being explored, such as the use of a carer from schools to provide a foster family with respite support.

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

### **31. 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. Members were also informed that there had been an increase in attendance at the CiCC meetings. In addition, the CiCC representatives had commented that they were really happy with the engagement at the previous Corporate Parent Committee informal meeting.

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

- Members commented that the last informal meeting was very well attended by the CiCC representatives and that engagement with the young people was inspiring.
- Some young people preferred to make their own arrangements for a hot meal at celebration events.
- There had been CiC summer events where birth children would attend including some organised by the Targeted Youth Services. TACT activities would be open to Children with care orders and those without an order.

### **ACTION AGREED**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report. It was also agreed that the Senior Participation Officer would review the catering arrangements format for CiC celebration events for the following year.

6:57pm, at this point Cllr Jones joined the meeting.

### 32. Permanency Report TACT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the role of TACT and the outcomes for children in care.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline of the permanency placement services.

The Executive Director Children's Services, TACT Peterborough, 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:

- There had been a contractual change for adoption and foster carers. A joint decision had been taken to TUPE the 'Access to Resources Team' back to the management of Peterborough City Council.
- There was a requirement from the Department of Education DFE to set up regional adoption agencies and the LA had recently undertaken a tender process to enter into a contract.
- A 'Language that Matters' report was produced following a national survey conducted by TACT. The survey highlighted the views of Children in Care and Care Leavers in regards to the terminology used by service providers to describe care services. The report outlined the terminology the Children in Care and Care Leavers found acceptable when referring to them.
- It had been suggested that a jargon buzzer could be used at the CPC informal meetings.
- There had been some ongoing work being undertaken to include CiCC in respect of the Council's major policy consultations, such as the Minerals and Waste policy.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services commented that some Peterborough City Council reports appeared to be missing information in section nine, 'other implications'. There had been a request made to the Director of Law and Governance that this section would include what impact a report had on Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and **AGREED** that:

1. The Children in Care Council would review the language that matters report and provide recommendations to the Committee over the preferred language.
2. The Committee would consider the CiCC recommendations and take forward any action as appropriate regarding the language that matters document.
3. The Democratic Services Officer would arrange to send a reminder about the requirement for PCC Officers to complete section nine, 'Other Implications', within all formal Peterborough City Council reports.
4. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services would liaise with the Director of People and Communities for Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, over the progress on major policy framework consultation with the Children in Care Council.

### RECOMMENDATION

It was recommended that the 'Language That Matters' summary and guidance be considered for use in Peterborough City Council reports, with the exception of statutory wording.

### 33. Annual Report of the Independent Review Officer Service

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report on the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) service, which outlined the quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the IRO Services in Peterborough as required by statutory guidance.

The Deputy Safeguarding Lead introduced the report to Members and asked them to note the contents and raise any questions they had with lead officers.

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

- The reasons behind why children coming into care had risen would be included in future reports. Recent reasons behind the increase could be due to a large family group entering the care system.
- Members congratulated the IRO team regarding the score of 99% completion of CiC reviews.

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

#### **ACTION AGREED**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and **AGREED** that the Deputy Safeguard Lead would provide Members with a briefing note on the progress made on recommendations raised following the inspection.

### 34. Report on 0-25 service redesign, including transition services

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report which provided an overview of the redesign of the 0-25 service.

The Head of 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:

- Members congratulated the team about the recent good grading result for Cherry Lodge following the inspections.

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

### 35. Report on work of the Corporate Parenting Committee for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the activity carried out by the Committee in the municipal year 2018-19, which was due to be presented to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

The Head of 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:

- Children's Services had implemented a new performance report format known as Qlicksense.
- Following the recent resignation of the Health Champion, the position would be nominated and appointed to in the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

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

### **ACTION AGREED**

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and **AGREED** that:

1. The annual report was an accurate reflection of the work of the Committee over the last 12 months; and
2. To submit the annual report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for noting as per the Corporate Parenting Committee's Terms of Reference.

### **36. 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 note the content and raise any queries they had with lead officers. The main issues highlighted were in relation to:

- Children accommodated in January 2019, had been under the age of five.
- Placement stability had increased in January 2019, which was due to children moving into more permanent placements.
- There had been an increase of 99% for CiC reviews conducted.

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

- The Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) figure outlined within the report was rolling data and was expected to increase during the year, especially where children in care had turned 18 years of age. There were a number of initiatives in place such as apprenticeships and other prevention services available through NEET to encourage the young people back into employment or training.
- The numbers for NEET had risen recently and this had been due to the increase in age range of 25 being monitored.
- Internal processes were being reviewed in order to introduce some earlier planning from the age of 17 in order to avoid young people becoming NEET.
- Changes in relation to support from personal advisors and other services to young people in care had been implemented recently in order to provide an effective transition.
- In addition there had been progress made in relation to the young people in care passports in order to prepare them for adulthood. The changes would see training for staff and foster carers in order to prepare young people from as early as possible.
- Targets for adoption were being reviewed in order to provide realistic goals. Adoption figures were reported quarterly and there had been an increase in special guardianship orders and a reduction in adoption orders.

- There had been 19 adoption orders and 31 special guardianship orders. Some children had to wait a long time for the adoption orders to be placed and this would impact on the percentage figures.
- Placements had been made for some really complex cases and this had been positively commented on recently by Ofsted.
- There had been a concentrated focus by the courts on placing children with family members.
- There was a review underway by the Authority and the courts to improve the figures for adoption orders.

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 Head of Corporate Parenting would clarify how many young people within the services of NEET that were aged 19, 20 and 21, had been for the entire time.

### **37. HEALTH REPORT**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report, which provided an overview of the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems were in place to meet the health needs of the Looked after Children population in Peterborough. Members were informed that there had been an impact on the service due to an increase in numbers of children taken into care. There had also been an issue with the length of time taken for assessments for CiC placed out of the area and this was a national issue. There had also been progress in using the funding provided for CiC mental health support.

The Dr Aslam, Doctor for Looked After Children and the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children 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:

- All health information was computerised and would move with the child, however, health passports was not a nationally adopted system and therefore would not always follow a CiC.
- Unaccompanied children in care would go through a blood borne screening assessment. The blood borne screening approach was adopted a year ago and there were retrospective assessments undertaken where needed. From 1 April 2019 all new unaccompanied children would undertake the blood borne screening assessment.

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

#### **AGREED ACTION**

The Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report.

### **38. MEMBERS ISSUES**

Members that were not part of the core CPP 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 considered and **RESOLVED** that there were no issues to raise.

**39. Date of Next Meeting**

The date for the next Corporate Parenting Committee would be decided at the next Annual Council meeting due to be held on Monday, 20th May 2019.

Chairman  
6:30pm – 7:55 pm