

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

Committee Members Present: Councillor Bisby, (Chairman (Chair), L Coles (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Bashir, S Bond, N Day, Jones, Harper, Haynes, Howard, Robinson and Lane.

Officers Present:

Myra O'Farrell, Head of Corporate Parenting
Deborah Spencer, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Sue King, Head of Service TACT
Jenny Weeden, Senior Youth Engagement and Participation Officer
Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present:

Stephen Greene, Foster Carer Forum representative

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayres and Howard.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

19. 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. Members were also advised of the events organised for foster carers and children in care, forthcoming visits from the Virtual School Head to provide advice about Personal Education Plans and the new role of young advocates to support Children in Care and Care Leavers.

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

Stephen Greene, Foster Carer Forum Representative 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:

- Members were advised that social media was being developed to advertise recruitment opportunities to attract new fostering carers.

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

20. UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH VOICE COORDINATOR 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. Members were advised about recruitment and the Children in Care packs.

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

The Quality Assurance Lead introduced the item to Members and asked them to note the report and raise any queries with officers.

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

- The team had identified a number of initiatives to engage children about the Children in Care Council by requesting support through Independent Review Officers and Social Worker Care meetings. In addition, Members were advised that the Children in Care Council website would be reviewed in order to attract more interest from Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- Members were advised that the vacant Youth Voice Coordinator role had been divided between two areas of support one to work with Children in Care and Care Leavers directly and the second to support the wider work.
- Members commented that there could be a disconnect felt by the Children in Care and Care Leavers following the recent staffing changes and offered to provide support to the Quality Assurance team, Safeguarding team and children where appropriate in order to support continuity. Members were advised that there would be an opportunity for them to shadow the safeguarding work and projects undertaken by the teams in order to support Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- Members commented that it was important to ensure that the saying goodbye messages were communicated to Children in Care and Care Leavers so that the changes were not too unsettling for them.

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

21. ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received an Annual report from the Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to the services for Children in Care (CC) and Care Leavers (CL).

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with 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.

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children introduced the report to Members and asked them to note the contents and raise any queries with officers.

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

- There had been joint work undertaken with the Health and Social Care services in relation to the format of Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) for Children in Care and Care Leavers. Members were also advised that since the format improvements, the percentage return rate of completed SDQs had increased.
- Work was being undertaken to raise the profile of SDQs through Social Workers and the Head of Virtual Schools to raise the importance of completion.
- Progress had been made with Social Workers on the development of Health Passports for Care Leavers.
- Members were also advised about the progress of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children blood borne virus screening and the additional work that had been undertaken with General Practitioners (GPs) to administer treatments for conditions such as anaemia.
- Members were advised about the work being undertaken with GPs to support Children in Care.
- An action plan was in place to explore the reasons why Foster Carers and Children in Care preferred to visit their GP for health support and advice.
- Members were advised about the data in relation to Tuberculosis (TB), which was awaited from the East of England. Members were also advised that the Sexual Health and TB services were due to inform the health services for Children in Care and Care Leavers of any positive results following screening tests.
- The Corporate Parenting Health Champion thanked the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children for her work with agencies to produce the data around Children in Care and Care Leaver health.
- Members were advised of the further areas of support that the health team could benefit from to enhance their work such as information provision from the social care team about a child in care's health and mother and baby forms to be made available as soon as possible.
- Members were also advised that from a social care position, there were some cases where there had been no health background information for a child coming into care as the birth parents had not engaged with the relevant services.
- An officer had undertaken work on scoring SDQs in relation to Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and the service was collecting, using and sharing that information. In addition, Members were advised that there would be a report produced on the findings at the end of the month and what actions would be required.
- Members commented that it would be helpful to receive an update from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMH) and the looked after child psychologist in relation to mental health wellbeing.
- Members were advised that health information and advice provided in the booklets for Children in Care and Care Leavers had been in use for two and a half years and the team were exploring the use of an electronic version.
- Members were advised that the local offer should be made available on the website for use by Children in Care.
- The funding for the Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) sleep packs attached to the report had been funded by the Cambridgeshire Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT).

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

ACTION AGREED

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

The Democratic Services Officer would contact the Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the looked after children's psychologist to:

1. Invite them to a future meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee to discuss mental health services provided to Children in Care and Care Leavers; and
2. Request a report in relation to the provision of mental health wellbeing services, including the work undertaken to support the stability of placements for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

22. FORMAL REPORT IN RELATION TO CHILDREN IN CARE PEER REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to a recent care peer review undertaken by a neighbouring local authority in the eastern region.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview of how the service would implement the actions suggested in order to continue to improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers as a group in Peterborough following the peer review. The action plan also included the activity to date since the peer review, with progress against the action plan and deadlines for completion.

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

- The first action to be concentrated on was in relation to UASC and accommodation, as funding was available to start the work.
- Members were advised of the legislative training undertaken for UASC across the authority and that the area of focus would be to deliver further training staff at a front door level of service.

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

ACTION AGREED

The Corporate Parenting Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that an update would be provided to Members outlining the progress of the peer review actions.

23. 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 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 would be a review on local placements for Children in Care and Care leavers and there was an interim plan to address the balance.
- Members were advised about the strategy to increase foster carer recruitment especial for children with disabilities and teenage boys.
- There would also be a review of the Authority's adoption target figure in line with national figures in order to ensure that it was realistic. Members were also advised that it was difficult to place boys over the age of five for adoption. The performance dashboard report would be revised to include a figure on Special Guardianship Order in addition to adoption.
- Members were advised that there was a national minimum requirement around accommodation for families offering fostering and adoption. There had also been several other barriers in relation to fostering and adoption, which the Authority was keen to understand to find a solution.

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

24. HEALTH REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Health service provision for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with 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.

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children introduced the report and requested Members to note the content and raise any queries, they had with lead officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and raise any queries with the Lead Officers.

25. COMMITTEE Meeting Start Times for 2020/2021

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to meeting start times for the municipal year 2020/2021.

The purpose of the report was to request the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider and agree the start time for all formal meetings for the Municipal Year 2020-21. The draft schedule of meetings would be agreed at Full Council on either 22 January or 4 March 2020.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report to Members and asked them to consider and agree the start time for informal and formal meetings.

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

ACTION AGREED

The Corporate Parenting Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the start time for Corporate Parenting Committee meetings in 2020-2021 would be held as follows:

- Formal – 6:00pm
- Informal – 6:00pm

26. 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.

27. 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 the Work Programme items scheduled for the municipal year 2019/2020.

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 2019/2020.

28. Date of Next Meeting

The next informal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee was due to be held on:

- Informal - 22 January 2020 at 5:30pm
- Formal - 25 March 2020 at 6:30pm

Chairman
6:30pm – 8:00 pm