

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
17 MARCH 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director, People and Communities, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley, Assistant Director, Children's Services	Tel. 864065

FOSTER CARER COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT – OCTOBER 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Stephen Greene	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report; and • Raise any queries they have with the lead officers 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee as part of a regular update schedule in line with the work programme.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee about the activities of the foster carer committee.

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.2 to receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.

2.3 This links to all aspects of the Children in Care Pledge.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The foster carer committee met on 11 February 2021 when the following areas were discussed:

- 4.1.1 Transport and C19 hygiene protocols: Some foster carers have expressed concerns about some aspects of transport in respect of children in their care. This relates to the cleaning regime and mask wearing for taxi drivers etc and there have been some issues on occasions when transport has arrived when it has not been needed. Committee has some suggestions and will invite the head of transport to the next FCCM.
- 4.1.2 Special occasions, birthday, festivals, Christmas payments: The committee asked that the celebration payment for Christmas 2020 be paid early due to foster carers needing to plan ahead as many presents were purchased online, which was very helpful. Committee would like to request that this could happen each year and also for birthday allowances to allow for planning and will discuss this with the Service.
- 4.1.3 Foster carers transferring to CCC. It was noted that some carers had enquired about transferring to CCC, but had been advised that as the organisations are aligned this would not be necessary as the services are to operate in the same way and allowances are now aligned.
- 4.1.4 Feedback to children's social work teams - the foster carer representative will discuss with colleagues about the increase in unannounced visits by children's social workers and the handover of information when social workers change. Staying put: Foster carers would welcome being part of the discussions with children's services about Staying Put arrangements, and the support that is received by the foster carers and the young person to work together on this.
- 4.1.4 Foster carer recording - Foster carers keep daily recordings about the children and young people in their care in A4 size books. Committee discussed their use and some members suggested that online recording may be easier. Members are aware that other counties (Suffolk was an example) use electronic devices carers which move with the child and also include key dates such as reviews and appointments.
- 4.1.5 Vaccinations for carers: - On behalf of carers the committee would like to thank PCC for their prompt response for carers receiving the vaccines as this has made carers feel safer and valued. All those carers who wished to take part in the vaccine roll-out have either received their first injection or have had their appointment dates confirmed.
- 4.1.6 Functions: We are delighted to report that Andrea Hughes has been appointed as function coordinator. The Christmas party has been booked for 28th November 2021 at the Fleet, along with a DJ. Fingers crossed, Covid restrictions will allow the party to take place this year. All are welcome.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 The outcome of the report is that committee will be updated about the foster carer committee activities.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members have a duty to review performance of Children's Social Care.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 *There are no financial implications as this report is for information only*

Legal Implications

9.2 There are no legal implications as the report is for information only.

Equalities Implications

9.3

9.4 *Carbon Impact Assessment*

Carbon impact in relation to this report has been considered and there is a neutral impact.

9.5 *Other Implications*

The work of the Foster Carer Committee relates to children in care and care leavers and therefore has an impact on them.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 *N/A*

11. APPENDICES

11.1 *List any appendices to the report.*
N/A

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