

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING (FORMAL)
HELD AT TIME, ON
WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2024,
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

To be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting.

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Corporate Parenting Committee, 17 July 2024, 1.30pm
\(peterborough.gov.uk\)](#)

Should you wish to listen to the debate had, please visit download the audio recording at:

[Corporate Parenting Committee - 17 July 2024, 1.30pm \(audio recording\)](#)

Committee Members Present: Councillor Howard, (Chairman (Chair), Councillors Bi (Vice Chair) Allen, Cole, Judy Fox, Hillier, Jenkins, S Bond, and Seager

Other Councillors in attendance:

Officers Present: Sara Graves, Service Director, Targeted Support and Safeguarding
Julie Mephram, Head of Service – Fostering & Corporate Parenting
Sue Hammersley, Director of National Housing Project
Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead, Participation and Independent Visiting
Dr Aslam, Consultant Paediatrician, Designated Doctor for Looked After Children
Sue King, Fostering Service Manager
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Glen Crossland, Foster Carer Committee Representative

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hemraj, Knight and Khan, Councillor Jenkins was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Hemraj.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL (CICC) PARTICIPATION REPORT

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

- The popular activities included escape room, ice skating and bowling and the meet up locations worked well. Foster carers were aware of activities, and these were also discussed at the Foster Carer Committee.
- Councillors could attend CiCC meetings and a form would need to be completed, out the reasons for the request.

AGREED ACTIONS

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

5. NATIONAL HOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the National House Project which outlined the service and support provided for the Care Experienced to move into independent living and employment opportunities with local businesses.

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

- Recruitment had been conducted for a project lead and other staff to implement the House Project. It was anticipated that the first Care Experienced young people to benefit from the project, would be due in September.
- Members were encouraged to share the House Project initiative on their social media websites to promote the service.
- Children in care living outside the LA would be subject to accommodation in their current place of residence, however, if they want to return to Peterborough, they could do.
- The package of support for care leavers with apprenticeships was available through the Combined Authority.
- Businesses could offer support by way of donations of items to set up homes and to provide work opportunities for the Care Experienced.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to noted the presentation.

AGREED ACTIONS

- I. Members would be provided with an update on the progress of the National House project in a year's time.
- II. Members to be provided with an update on the Combined Authority funding for CiC apprenticeships.

6. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 204/2025 AND REVIEW OF WORK IN 2023/2024

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the work programme for 2024/2025.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the contents and agreed that the work programme would be updated with the following items:

- Advocacy Service Update
- Sufficiency Strategy and the three year plan.
- Joint Housing Proposal with Housing Officers

The Committee also agreed to **DEFER** approval of the work programme 2024/25 until the November meeting.

7. UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARERS COMMITTEE

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to updates from the Foster Carer Committee.

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

- A team of internal psychologist would work with children in care, foster carers and staff on mental health support. This work would cover diagnostic and treatment support.
- Peterborough had 79 inhouse fostering homes and it was hoped that with new support staff and promotion on the website, recruitment numbers would increase by 50%. A rebrand of the fostering campaign following the Cambridgeshire County Council decoupling was due to be up and running by September 2024. Councillor Noreen Bi was thanked for her support with the fostering recruitment campaign.
- The Children in Care Council (CiCC) could be involved in the foster carer recruitment campaign.

AGREED ACTION

The Corporate Parenting Committee **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the fostering service would provide training to Foster Carers in relation to the types of paperwork needed for CiC passports.

8. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Performance Data for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The purpose of the report was to update Members in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of May 2024 and to provide a breakdown of the types of homes in which they were living in. The report also provided information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

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

- Work was underway to improve the timeliness of health assessments and funding had been received to undertake the late health assessments.

AGREED ACTION

The Corporate Parenting Committee **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the Service Director for Target Support and Safeguarding would provide members with information in future reports on:

- I. Comparable data from other authorities in relation to performance figures.
- II. Figures for children in care living in the city and outside the city where health assessments were outstanding or late.

9. ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Annual Health Report.

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

- There had been 10% of children in care out of the area, who had not seen a dentist, however, this was positive improvement.
- Members were encouraged to approach their Dentists to see if they could encourage them to provide services to CIC.

AGREED ACTION

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

10. MEMBERS ISSUES

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

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** that there were no issues to raise. In addition, members agreed that:

1. They would raise the Members Issues item with group leaders and encourage Councillors to attend to feedback in this session.
2. Democratic Services Officer to resend the Councillor profile sheets to all Committee Members for completion.

CHAIRMAN
END 7.30PM