

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Minutes of meeting held on 21st January, 2019

Present: Councillor G Kemp (Chairman), Councillors O. Griffiths, Dr. I.J. Jonson, K. McCaffer, Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn, E Williams; Mrs. J. Ballantine (Principal HR Business Partner), A. Borsden (Lead Officer Social Inclusion and Wellbeing), L. Carver (Director of Social Services), Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services) and Mrs. K. Bowen (Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer).

(1)	Apologies for Absence –
	These were received from Martine Coles (LAC Education Co-ordinator and Lead Professional EAL), Karen Conway (Operational Manager – CYPS) and Ms. G. Toon (Complex Needs Manager / Principal Educational Psychologist).
(2)	Minutes and Matters Arising –
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November, 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>In MC's absence it was agreed that a report providing an update on the GCSE results be considered at the next meeting of the Panel.</p>
(3)	Breakdown of Children Looked After –
	<p>RE tabled details of the current statistics as at 7th January, 2019 which advised that there were currently 271 children looked after of which 135 were female and 136 were male.</p> <p>The ages of children looked after were noted as: 0-5 years – 87, 6 – 10 years 66, 11 – 15 years 84 and 16-17 years 34.</p> <p>The legal status of children looked after was reported as: Care Order – 195 Interim Care Order – 35 Placement Order – 17 Section 76 – 24.</p> <p>In noting that the highest numbers were recorded for 0-5 years and 11-15 years, the Panel was advised of the ongoing pressures for both the Social Services and Education Departments. Two children were subject of Secure Orders, one had been placed in the north of England, the other in Scotland. These placements had been the only options available, in view of need and</p>

	<p>having undertaken extensive searches.</p> <p>Work is also being undertaken in relation to children on “the edge of care”, and it was recognised that increases in demand were not only a local issue but a national one. Reference was made to the current complexity of need of children accessing services.</p> <p>The Corporate Strategy for Children who need Care and Support is currently being reviewed with the intention that it be considered by Cabinet in the Autumn 2019. The revised Strategy will come to Corporate Parenting Panel as part of the consultation phase.</p> <p>Councillor McCaffer referred to a recent Foster Carer Forum that she had attended which she considered had been an inspiring event, albeit it had raised the issue of the need for more foster carers.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> It was agreed that the item “Breakdown of Children Looked After” continue to be a standard item on the agenda to be reported at every meeting.</p>
(4)	<u>FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS -</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to future agenda items for the Panel as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE results • Corporate Strategy for Children (revision) • Children most at risk; management of high risk students • Prevention of homelessness and mental health project • CIW case focussed activity – IRO service • Progress against the CYPS Inspection Action Plan • Edge of Care Analysis • Personal experience – CLA or previously Looked After <p><u>ACTION:</u> That a draft work programme be prepared for consideration by the Panel at the next meeting.</p>

(5)	<u>SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETING DATES –</u>
	It was confirmed that meetings would be held on a bi-monthly basis for approximately an hour per session, at 4.30 p.m., and with Mondays being accepted as a suggested day. The Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer was requested to e-mail suggested dates for approval.
(6)	<u>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING –</u>
	Monday, at 4.30 p.m. Date to be confirmed.