

## REMOTE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

### Minutes of meeting held on 15th May 2023

**Present:** Councillors E. Williams, J.E. Charles, W.A. Hennessy, S. Lloyd-Selby, N. Thomas; Mr. L. Carver (Director of Social Services), Tracy Dickinson (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), Mrs. M. Coles (Vulnerable Groups Manager (CLA Education Co-ordinator), Ms. K. Conway (Operational Manager CYPS), Mr. M. Dacey (Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing), , Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services), Ms. M. Hudson (Head of Standards and Provision), Ceri O'Dare (Team Manager 15 Plus), (Mrs. J. Rudge (Team Manager, Children and Young People Services), Miss. C. Western (Members and Committee Services Assistant).

Also Present: - Mrs. S. Cox (Student Support Manager, Llantwit Major School),

<b>(1)</b>	<b>Appointment of Vice-Chair -</b> The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, which was received from Councillor N. Thomas for Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby. Councillor Hennessey seconded the nomination. No further nominations were received nor were there any objections.  AGREED – T H A T Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby be appointed Vice-Chair for the Municipal year.
<b>(2)</b>	<b>Apologies -</b> These were received from, Councillors Dr. I. Johnson, and I. Perry and Mr. M. Ingram
<b>(3)</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 -</b> The Minutes were accepted in principle as correct record, subject to Panel noting that Cllr. Dr. I.J. Johnson had been present.; however, D. Davies was offered the opportunity to comment as he had been on leave since the minutes were circulated.  AGREED – T H A T with the amendment above being noted, the minutes be accepted as a correct record.
<b>(4)</b>	<b>Appreciative Inquiry Exploring the Progress and Development of the Virtual School Model for Children Looked After (CLA) Within the Vale of Glamorgan (Martine Coles) -</b> MC spoke to the Panel about how Learning and Skills had created a presentation to showcase the recent CLA Appreciative Inquiry within the Vale of Glamorgan in January 2023, which meant that they wanted to develop more about how the service could do better as an Authority. It was explained in detail how as a CLA education department, it was clear that Welsh Government were keen for them to develop a Welsh virtual school model. This was collaboratively taken with The Vale of Glamorgan, Neath Port

Talbot, and Flintshire Council staff to explore the progress and development of the virtual school model for the children looked after (CLA).

Several factors were looked at and MC went on to present what was captured in the inquiry. It was noted that there was significant evidence of partnerships and successful multi agency working, particularly between education colleagues and Children and Young People Services and they had received high praise on these matters.

MC then went on to show some context and shared the following information –

- At the time of the inquiry there were a total of 318 CLA by the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 123 pupils and learners were placed to live outside of the Local Authority.
- 86.02% average attendance for those within schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 94.82% average attendance for those children placed outside of the Authority.
- 100% CLA had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- 86.06% of CLA had an identified Additional Learning Need, at either school action (SA), School Section Plus (SAP) Statement or Individual Development Plan (IDP) being assessed IDP.
- Of those, 29.14% had a statement, IDP, or were being assessed for IDP.

MC advised the Panel that in addition two schools were visited as part of the Appreciative Inquiry and that interviews with the staff and young people evidenced there were strong links between the schools and the Vulnerable Groups Team (VGT). It was reiterated that the teams were successful and very knowledgeable in their roles. That information had been an invaluable piece of information that had progressed into a very detailed data set for the Council to use.

Councillor Lloyd-Selby asked whether CLA were treated as being part a virtual school no matter which Authority they resided, and MC agreed that was correct.

MC welcomed S. Cox to the Panel from Llantwit Major Comprehensive School who spoke about her experience when the school was visited for the Inquiry and how the school supported the CLA's social and emotional needs.

As part of the Inquiry, it was asked what being 'trauma informed' looked like for their population at Llantwit Major School.

SC noted that there were several dedicated staff who had taken part in the training and saw children on a rotational basis. Not only did they have designated staff, but all staff had some sort of basic training.

Finally, MC concluded by asking SC how she knew that her children were making the anticipated progress. SC responded by saying that they used SIMS and several factors such as information shared with them by a social worker/carer or team member along with school grades and other achievements to ensure they were well supported and kept up to date on tasks.

MC thanked SC for her contribution and went on to present the five recommendations concluded by the inquiry which were outlined as follows:

- To further develop the Virtual School Model.
- Ensure in depth analysis of the data to ensure all funding streams including LAC and PDG are allocated effectively to ensure maximum impact for learners.
- To continue to improve wellbeing measures in line with the new curriculum for Wales and to ensure these are collated to improve pupil tracking, resource allocation and pupil outcomes.
- Consider launching the new model formally with schools and other partners.
- Develop a shared action plan to ensure true corporate responsibilities from all partners.

SC responded firstly by saying that the staff were going above and beyond for the children. There was a team of staff around a child to help support them, making it clear who they could go to and where they could receive essential professional support from. It was also noted how important it was to ensure that all the children were treated the same, felt valued and to felt equal to all other children not just CLA children.

SC then went on to speak about the trauma informed training that had been undertaken by staff.

Overall MC noted that after collating all the information and data there were things that worked well and things could be improved upon and therefore had been adjusted. MC advised the Panel that in conclusion the position had been looked at for CLA in detail and vastly improved the provision.

The Chair thanked MC for the extensive presentation and invited any further questions from Members.

Councillor N. Thomas thanked both MC and SC for their time and effort in taking part and asked for clarity with regards to CLA living outside of the Authority. MC responded by giving an example that if a CLA child was living in RCT but was a Bridgend looked after child, they would receive provision from Bridgend County. Therefore, we would only get this information if they were using a Vale provision.

	<p>MH expressed how pleased she was with MC and staff within her team to open their service to be scrutinised and challenged by other Authorities. MC was the first to do this within the Directorate, it had been highly praised and subsequently the request had been made to share the information with the whole of Wales.</p> <p>Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby congratulated MC and said how reassuring it was to hear how services were supporting children and had the best possible experience of education in the Vale. She went on to ask how widely the approach was utilised across Wales and whether Out of County children were given the same provision.</p> <p>MC noted that it was agreed that as of 2<sup>nd</sup> May all CLA outside the Authority's PEP would be on the portal to be viewed to ensure people would receive notifications and schools could engage with the service in a more proactive way to achieve better cross border arrangements and data sharing which would then make a significant difference in children's education.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Panel for any further questions and confirmed that the slides to the presentation would be shared with the Panel after the meeting for further clarity.</p>
<b>(5)</b>	<b>Children Looked After – Breakdown (Karen Conway)</b> -
	<p>KC presented on-screen the most recent breakdown of CLA, advising that there were currently 324 CLA compared with 259 at the end of March 2020 and 322 at the end of November 2022.</p> <p>It was raised that the number of CLA fluctuated, influenced by the number of entrants, and exits. Out of the 322 CLA, 147 were female and 177 were male.</p> <p>The breakdown of the ages of CLA and the legal status of those children was also noted together with a breakdown of who those children were placed with. Costings for external placements were also explained.</p> <p>KC concluded the presentation by asking the Panel if there were any questions.</p> <p>The Chair noted that there were no further questions, and both LC and Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby noted the extensive amount of work that had been put into the comprehensive report and how efforts were continually being made to place children as close to home as possible.</p>
<b>(6)</b>	<b>Any Other Business –</b>
	<p>The Chair requested that an Agenda Conference take place at least two weeks before each meeting.</p>

The Chair asked the Panel to provisionally agree which items would be taken to the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2023. KC advised that the Enfys Service would be available to present at that meeting.

The Vice Chair suggested bringing an update on services for children with disabilities. RE advised that this could be a possibility and would advise the Chair if this could be arranged.

LC also suggested that recent information from Sports and Play colleagues could possibly be taken to the next meeting.

The Chair asked if all Members were content with those proposals as agenda items for the July meeting, and further asked Panel Members to note that a report would be considered by Cabinet on 8th June, 2023 concerning an Update to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate parenting Panel which would be amended to confirm that Members appointed or nominated to serve on the Panel would do so until the local government elections in 2027. Panel Members raised no objections.

The date of next meeting was confirmed as 3rd July 2023 at 5pm.