

REMOTE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Minutes of meeting held on 11th September 2023

Present: Councillor E. Williams (Chair); Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby (Vice-Chair); Councillors J.E. Charles, W.A. Hennessy and N.C. Thomas; Mr. L. Carver (Director of Social Services), Ms. T. Dickinson (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Ms. K. Conway (Operational Manager CYPS), Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services, Ms. C. 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: Sandra Saif (Lead Vulnerable Groups Casework Officer)

(1)	Apologies -
	These were received from Martine Booker-Southard and Councillor Ian Johnson.
(2)	Minutes and Matters Arising – 3rd July 2023 -
	The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.
(3)	Siarter Rhianta Corfforaethol – Addewid Cymru/Corporate Parenting Charter – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Promise from Wales - Consideration of signing up to the Charter - Request to complete the attached questionnaire (Rachel Evans.)
	The Chair gave a brief overview of the Charter and Members were then given an opportunity to contribute to the response. After the discussion it was agreed that all amendments were to be incorporated into the Charter response and sent on to Welsh Government on completion by the Democratic Officer.
(4)	School attendance and persistent disengagement presentation (Martin Dacey.) Verbal Update.
	<p>Martin Dacey offered the Panel a verbal update on the recent issues regarding school attendance. Since Covid19 it had become apparent that there were a significant number of children not attending school full time due to several factors. It was noted that only one school in Wales had 90% attendance and that was in Wrexham.</p> <p>Locally we were also currently experiencing a low attendance at one of our High Schools and this was being looked at. It was also explained that this was not something that could be addressed quickly as there were several challenging factors.</p> <p>Questions were asked by both the Chair and Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby if this situation was getting worse and it was noted by MD that there was no evidence at present of this. Although it had become significantly worse since 2019 and that secondary education was far worse than primary education. Many efforts</p>

	were currently being made via several channels such as social media interactions to ensure this issue did not get worse and work was continuously being put in place to assist and identify the key issues that impact attendance.
(5)	Children Looked After – Breakdown (Karen Conway.)
	<p>K. Conway gave a breakdown of children looked after as of 5th September 2023. It was noted in the report that there were currently 347 children looked after and this had gradually increased. However, this number of children looked after fluctuated, influenced by the number of entrants and exits, into and from care. Of the 347 children, 161 were female 186 were male which still showed an increase in the number of male children entering care.</p> <p>The ages of children looked after were as below:</p> <p>0 – 5 years = 83</p> <p>6 – 10 years = 96</p> <p>11 – 15 years = 109</p> <p>16 – 17 years = 59</p> <p>The legal status of children looked after were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Order – 239 • Interim Care Order – 29 • Placement Order – 17 • Section 76 – 62 • Secure Order – 0 • Remand – 0 <p>There were also statistics shared that showed the legal status of children looked after, where they are placed and with regard to the cost of external placements.</p>
(6)	Any Other Business –
	<p>Future agenda items were discussed, identifying a presentation from the Youth Justice and Early Support Service in November and a presentation from Children and Young People Services and Learning and Skills regarding children with disabilities in January.</p> <p>The date of next meeting was confirmed as 13th November 2023 at 5.00p.m.</p>