

Public Document Pack



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

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Friday 12 January 2018

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Corporate Parenting Board

The **Corporate Parenting Board** will meet in the **Meeting Room 1 - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **10.00 am** on **Monday 22 January 2018**.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Muscroft".

Julie Muscroft

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Corporate Parenting Board members are:-

Member

Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)

Councillor Karen Allison

Councillor Andrew

Marchington

Councillor Fazila Loonat

Councillor Gemma Wilson

Jo-Anne Sanders

Martin Green

Janet Tolley

Scott Deacon

Tom Brailsford

Elaine McShane

John Walsh

Interim Service Director for Early Help and Learning

Deputy Assistant Director

Virtual School Headteacher

Participation Officer, Commissioning and Health Partnerships

Head of Joint Commissioning

Head of Children's Social Work - Leeds

Service Manager, Safeguarding Services

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Introductions and Apologies

To elect a Chair for the Corporate Parenting Board in the absence of Cllr Erin Hill.

The Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting and announce any apologies received.

2: Minutes of previous meeting

1 - 6

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th November 2017.

3: Interests

7 - 8

The Board Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have disclosable pecuniary interests, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items, or any other interest.

4: Admission of the Public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Board will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

6: Public Question Time

The Board will hear any questions from the general public.

7: Ofsted update

9 - 12

The Board will receive an update following the most recent visit of Ofsted.

Contact: Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)

8: Fostering Network

The Board will consider a verbal update on the Fostering Network.

Contact: Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)

9: Update on Regional Adoption Work

The Board will consider a verbal update on the Regional Adoption Work.

Contact: Sal Tariq, Deputy Director (Children's Services)

10: Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

13 - 16

The Board will receive an updated agenda plan at the meeting.

Contact: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

11: Dates of Future Meetings

To note future meeting dates of the Board:

- Monday 12 March 2018, 10am
 - Monday 30 April 2018, 10am
-

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 13th November 2017

Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)
Councillor Fazila Loonat
Councillor John Lawson (for Cllr Andrew Marchington)
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher
John Walsh, Service Manager (Safeguarding Services)
Jo-Anne Sanders, Interim Service Director for Early Help and Learning
Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting
Martin Green, Head of Localities Officer (Children and Families)

In Attendance: Belinda Cashman, Interim Service Manager (Leaving Care Service)
Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Apologies: Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Tom Brailsford, Head of Joint Commissioning
Scott Deacon, Participation Officer (Commissioning and Health Partnerships)

1 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Andrew Marchington, Councillor Karen Allison and Tom Brailsford.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 18 September 2017 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

There were no interests declared.

4 Admission of the Public

The Panel considered the exclusion of the public and determined that agenda items 1 to 13 be considered in public session and that agenda item 14 be held in private.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

7 Drop-in Centre Tour

The Board undertook a tour of the No 11 Drop-in facility for Looked after children carried out by Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting.

Julie Mepham highlighted the following areas to the Board during the tour:-

- The facility had opened in October 2017 and was open Monday to Friday. The Council was looking into the possibility of opening the facility one evening per week and a day at weekends;
- The facility had been officially opened by Robert Goodwill, MP and Minister for the State on the 2nd November 2017;
- Peer Mentors would be available for young people to talk to and would wear an official hoodie to inform other young people who they were;
- Up to 16-17 young people could visited the facility on a given day;
- Facilities at the centre included a kitchen to cook meals and wash clothes, pcs and laptops, private rooms with windows screened out and a toilet and shower room;
- The Board was advised that a food bank was available which was monitored to pick up any issues and to give appropriate support;
- Christmas bags had been donated from supermarkets last year for young people who were on their own and the facility were hoping for similar donations for 2017;
- The Centre was hoping to get facilities and resources for parents of children;
- A Christmas dinner event will be held during December.

Julie Mepham advised the Board that the LBT Youth Group currently held their meetings at the Centre, but that officers were currently considering how best the space at the Centre should be managed.

RESOLVED - The Board thanked Julie Mepham for the tour of the new drop-in Centre and thanked officers at the Centre for their hospitality.

8 Ofsted update

The Board considered a verbal update following the most recent monitoring visit by Ofsted.

Elaine McShane advised the Board that officers were currently awaiting the formal letter from Ofsted following the recent monitoring visit held on the 8th and 9th November 2017.

The Board was advised that Ofsted had confirmed that the electronic system within Children's Services had showed evidence of management oversight, but that this was not consistent.

Elaine McShane informed the Board that Ofsted had advised that they had not seen as much progress as they would have liked since the last monitoring visit held 12 months ago. The Board was advised, however, that Ofsted had acknowledged the new partnership between Kirklees and Leeds had only recently been established and was still embedding.

Corporate Parenting Board - 13 November 2017

The Board was advised that Ofsted had not yet confirmed when their next monitoring visit would be. Elaine McShane advised the Board that the letter from Ofsted would be available for public view once it had been published.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the update on the recent Ofsted Monitoring visit be noted.
- (2) That the Board receive a further update once the formal feedback on the monitoring visit held on the 8th and 9th November had been received from Ofsted.

9 Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers

The Board considered a report advising on the Council's current policy in regards to the exemption of care leavers paying council tax and welcomed Belinda Cashman, Interim Service Manager for the Leaving Care Service, to the meeting.

Cllr Hill advised the Board that a motion would be put to the next Council meeting on the 15th November 2017 on the issue of Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years and Council Tax exemption.

Belinda Cashman advised the Board that the current policy was discretionary and was not open to all care leavers. The Board was informed that the Department of Education was currently consulting on this piece of legislation and whether this would mean that the service just continued for young people, was discretionary or focused on task centre issues. Belinda Cashman advised the Board that the Children's Society Report of 2016 had called for Local Authorities to make care leavers exempt from Council tax up to the age of 25.

The following issues were raised by the Board:-

- What are the numbers of who was exempt and why?
- Were any care leavers paying for council tax when they should not be?
- How many care leavers were living in Kirklees and out of the area post 18, of those how many were exempt and what was the Council doing to support them?
- Which other Local Authorities in the region adopted this policy?

The Board supported the officer recommendation to recommend to Cabinet the introduction of a council tax exemption for all care leavers up to the age of 25 and agreed to reconsider the issue at the Board once further information had been provided on the matters raised and highlighted above.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Board noted the report on Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers and thanked Belinda Cashman for attending the meeting.
- (2) That the Board receive further information on the numbers of those young people who were exempt, lived within Kirklees and out of area, including the reasons for exemption.

Corporate Parenting Board - 13 November 2017

- (3) That the Board receive further information on which other Local Authorities in the region did not use this policy.

10 Peer Mentoring Delivery

The Board considered a verbal update relating to the Peer Mentoring Scheme for care leavers.

Belinda Cashman highlighted the following key issues:-

- 8 young people had expressed an interest to become Peer Mentors;
- training was being rolled out to 4 young people and would be completed shortly;
- peer mentors would initially be based at the drop-in facility, but would visit residential units where there were concerns;
- the Peer Mentor role would be to help young people to think through their decisions;
- there had been interest from other young people about becoming a Peer Mentor;
- opportunities would be available for the Peer Mentors to get involved in other areas of work;
- Officers were looking to arrange some more training for Peer Mentors early in 2018.

Belinda Cashman advised the Board that there was scope for 2 Peer Mentor apprenticeships at the drop-in facility. Julie Mephram advised that a proposal had been written on the 2 apprenticeships and was currently being considered.

The Board had a discussion about the apprenticeship initiative and approach within Kirklees and agreed that it would be preferable for jobs to be available for young people to go to once their apprenticeships had come to an end.

The Board agreed to ask the Peer Mentors to come to a future meeting to feedback on progress of their role.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Board noted the report on Peer Mentoring Delivery and thanked Belinda Cashman for the update.
- (2) That the Board receive feedback on progress at a future meeting of the Board from the Peer Mentors – date to be determined.

11 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

The Board agreed to consider its agenda plan for future meetings at the next meeting in January 2018.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Board noted items for future meetings and that the Governance Officer update the Agenda Plan accordingly.

Corporate Parenting Board - 13 November 2017

- (2) That the Board receive an update on the Regional Adoption Work at the January meeting.
- (3) That the Board receive a revised Agenda Plan for consideration at the January meeting.

12 Dates of Future Meetings

The Board considered the schedule of future meeting dates for the 2017/18 municipal year.

RESOLVED - That the date of future meetings be noted as follows:

- Monday 22 January 2018, 10am
- Monday 12 March 2018, 10am
- Monday 30 April 2018, 10am

13 Exclusion of the Public

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

14 Performance Report

The Board received exempt information in relation to Agenda Item 14. The Board gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the consideration of Agenda Item 14.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Board noted the Performance Report and thanked Board Members for their contributions.
- (2) That the Board consider the Head Teacher's report showing the data for 2017 Education Outcomes at their January meeting.

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC

DECLARATION

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Name of Councillor

Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed:

Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and

(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

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8 December 2017

Mr Steve Walker
Interim Director of Children's Services
Kirklees Council
Civic Centre 3
Huddersfield
HD1 2YZ

Dear Mr Walker

Monitoring visit of Kirklees children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Kirklees children's services on 8 and 9 October 2017. The visit was the third monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate for services for children in need of help and protection and children looked after in October 2016. This visit was carried out by Rachel Holden, Her Majesty's Inspector, and Cath McEvoy, Ofsted Inspector.

Areas covered by the visit

During the course of this visit, inspectors reviewed the progress made in help and protection. In particular, inspectors focused on:

- initial responses to children in need of help and protection
- assessment of risk within the initial response
- management decision-making, oversight and supervision
- information sharing and the multi-agency response to risk
- application of thresholds
- children being seen by a social worker and seen alone. Their experiences are considered when making assessments of risk.

A range of evidence was considered during the visit, including the tracking and sampling of electronic case records, supervision files, observation of social workers, and performance information provided by staff and managers. In addition, inspectors spoke to parents and a range of staff, including managers and other practitioners.

Overview

Since the previous monitoring visit in June, the director of children's services of a neighbouring authority has been appointed by Kirklees council as director of children's services in addition to his existing role. This is part of an agreement between the two local authorities to establish a formal partnership arrangement for a period of two years, with leadership, management, capacity and expertise being provided to support improvement in Kirklees.

The focus of this visit was agreed with the director of children's services, six weeks prior to fieldwork, as an area in which it was hoped that progress could be demonstrated, as plans were already being actioned in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, which was identified as ineffective in the inspection in 2016. However, the action taken during this time has not led to the improvements anticipated, and children are being left in situations of unacceptable and unassessed risk.

The pace of change in Kirklees is too slow, and widespread and serious failures remain in the first response to children in need of help and protection. Inspectors identified a deterioration in the management of risk to vulnerable children and in the quality of decision-making and assessment.

Findings and evaluation of progress

Over the last four months, experienced senior managers from a neighbouring local authority have been supporting managers and staff in Kirklees to improve services for children, working in the last two months alongside managers to coach, mentor and implement safer working practices at the 'front door'. Inspectors found that opportunities to strengthen decision-making at the 'front door' at an earlier stage have been missed. Actions taken have not led to evidence of improved management of risk or effective challenge to the drift and delay for children in the vast majority of cases seen.

Recent activity in the duty and advice team has included an external review of process commissioned by Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board, followed by training of partners to help them to better understand thresholds and their role in supporting children and families. Changes to process are assisting the flow and volume of work. Data is now being more effectively used, for example to demonstrate whether compliance is achieved in meeting statutory requirements. Increased focus has been given to engaging staff and providing better support in order to create the right conditions for social work to flourish. However, these changes are too recent to have made a difference to the services that children and families are receiving.

Thresholds are not well understood by partner agencies. The level of contacts made by other agencies to children's social care remains high, and many of these contacts do not meet the threshold for statutory intervention.

In the majority of cases seen, managers' application of the thresholds is inconsistent and inappropriate. There has been a recent focus on reducing the numbers of contacts to children's social care and, while this has been achieved in data terms, it has led in a number of cases of children not receiving a social work response that meets their needs. The 'step in' team, established by a previous interim manager prior to the monitoring visit, and which is an early help team offering support to families, is being inappropriately deployed in some cases when the presenting issues require social work assessment and intervention. Senior managers are aware of this, but have not taken action to address it.

Immediate risk to children is not always recognised and responded to in a timely way. Drift and delay in responding to children were evident in the majority of cases sampled. A high number of cases seen by inspectors were referred back to the local authority for immediate action to ensure that children were safeguarded. The remedial action taken in one case, following inspectors raising serious concerns about safety planning, did not reduce the risk of significant harm to children. Decision-making, risk assessment and the resulting actions are not ensuring children's safety.

Focused engagement with partners about their role in strategy meetings has recently increased multi-agency attendance, and this is leading to increased information sharing and more effective analysis and identification of risk. However, when decisions are made to undertake section 47 investigations, there are delays in action being taken to safeguard children, and children are not being seen quickly enough.

There is an appropriately focused overarching improvement plan and work is underway to reduce the level of caseloads, which are still high in the assessment teams. Improvements to the 'front door' are expected to help with this, but to date there is no discernible impact.

The quality of the majority of assessments seen is poor. A focus to ensure that assessments comply with the timescales of presenting risk has resulted in a reduction in their quality. Staff also report that, in an effort to meet deadlines, quality is being compromised. Historical information is not always recorded or considered, and key information is often absent. The impact of identity and diversity is not addressed in the majority of cases.

When children are seen, they are seen alone by social workers, and the child's voice is clearly recorded in most cases. However, the impact of the child's voice is not always widely assessed or evident in safety planning. There is insufficient attention given to individual children's needs. For example, in the case of brothers and sisters, information is sometimes duplicated for each child and the majority of assessments lack analysis of children's lived experience.

Better staff engagement by the new senior leadership team is beginning to improve both support to the frontline and staff morale, but it is too soon to evaluate its

impact on social work practice. The recruitment and retention of experienced staff are an appropriate priority for the local authority, but workforce stability remains fragile.

Social workers do not always benefit from high-quality, reflective supervision. Individual supervision has not been taking place in some of the teams in the duty and advice service and, in other service areas supervision is not regular and has not been effective in improving the quality of social work practice.

A copy of this letter will be sent to the Department for Education and published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Holden
Her Majesty's Inspector

Pre-publication

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2017/18

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Priority Focus	Officer Contact
<p>Monday 17 July 2017</p> <p>10.00 a.m. – 12.00</p> <p>Mtg Room 1, HTH</p>	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>OFSTED Monitoring Visit</p> <p>Civic Centre Drop-In Centre</p> <p>Service Plan Update</p> <p>Performance Report</p> <p>Fostering Agency Report</p> <p>Independent Reviewing</p> <p>Officer’s Annual Report</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Agenda Plan</p>	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Voice of YP</p>	<p>Julie Mepham</p> <p>Julie Mepham</p> <p>Julie Mepham</p> <p>Sue Grigg</p> <p>Rob Finney</p> <p>Kerrie Scraton</p> <p>Alaina McGlade</p>
<p>Monday 18 September 2017</p> <p>10.00 a.m. – 12.00</p> <p>Mtg Room 1, HTH</p>	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>CPB Annual Report</p> <p>Performance Report</p> <p>Update on regionalisation</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Agenda Plan</p> <p>Missing statistics</p>		<p>Martin Green</p> <p>Sue Grigg</p> <p>Mandy Prout</p> <p>Alaina McGlade</p> <p>Andy Gresswell</p>
<p>Monday 13 November 2017</p> <p>10.00 a.m. – 12.00</p> <p>Drop In Centre (Old Registrars’ Office)</p> <p>15 minute tour of building prior to start of meeting</p>	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>OFSTED Update</p> <p>Peer Mentoring Delivery</p> <p>Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers</p> <p>Performance Report</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Agenda Plan</p>		<p>Elaine McShane/ Julie Mepham</p> <p>Julie Mepham</p> <p>Sue Griggs</p> <p>Alaina McGlade</p>

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2017/18

<p>Monday 22 January 2018</p> <p>10.00 a.m. – 12.00 Mtg Room 1, HTH</p>	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>OFSTED Monitoring Visit</p> <p>Fostering Network</p> <p>Update on Regional Adoption work (verbal)</p> <p>Informal items</p> <p>Head Teacher’s Report 2017 – Education Outcomes</p> <p>Performance data (Sept – Nov 170)</p> <p>Training Briefings – to discuss</p>		<p>Elaine McShane</p> <p>Elaine McShane</p> <p>Sal Tariq</p> <p>Janet Tolley</p> <p>E McShane</p>
<p>Monday 12 March 2018</p> <p>10.00 a.m. – 12.00 Mtg Room 1, HTH</p>	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>Future shape of service and relationship with partners</p> <p>CPB relationship with CICC & CL’s Forum</p> <p>Informal Items</p> <p>Training Briefings – to discuss</p>	<p>E McShane</p> <p>O Rix</p>	

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2017/18

Monday 30 April 2018 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 Mtg Room 3, HTH	Public Items: Informal Items Training Briefings – to discuss		
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Future reports:

Peer Mentor Progress update

Regular reports:

Annual:

Private Fostering Annual Report

6 monthly

Adoption Agency Report (April to September)

Adoption Agency Report (October to March)

Quarterly

Fostering Agency Report (April to June)

Fostering Agency Report (July to Sept)

Fostering Agency Report (Oct to Dec)

Fostering Agency Report (Jan to March)

Termly:

Virtual School

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