

Contact Officer: Tish Barker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 18th January 2016

Present:

Councillor Erin Hill
Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Phil Scott
Marion Gray
Martin Green
Janet Tolley
Bev Paris
Jacqui Gedman
Matthew Holland
Steve Collins

Apologies: Councillor Karen Allison
Carly Speechley

12 Membership of the Board/Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Karen Allison and Carly Speechley.

13 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

14 Interests

No interests were declared at the meeting.

15 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

16 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

17 Public Question Time

No public questions were asked.

18 Kirklees Council's Projects to support Care Leavers

Ian Stewart-Watson, Project Manager, introduced the report detailing the Council's Projects to support Leavers and highlighted the two major projects, New Belongings and The Transformation Challenge Award.

The focus on the New Belongings project would be to:

- Establish a care leaver's forum
- Work closely with the partner agencies to improve EET opportunities for young people
- Improve pathway planning.

The Transformation Challenge Award, funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government, aimed to encourage and support the redesign of how services would be delivered within councils, across local public services and the voluntary and community sector to deliver better outcomes for citizens. The award of £400,000 would allow a series of changes which would include:

- The development of a peer mentoring scheme
- Pro bono support from community organisations
- Improvement of mobile connectivity for care leavers

The Board noted the key points and the New Belongings and Transformation Challenge Award action plan as set out in the report.

RESOLVED - That the Kirklees Council's Projects to Support Care Leavers report be noted.

19 CAMHS provision for Looked after Children

Tom Brailsford, Joint Commissioning Manager, updated the panel on the current CAMHS service provision for Looked After Children and Care Leavers and highlighted the service development that had resulted from the Kirklees CAMHS Transformation Plan.

The Board were informed of the need to provide both targeted and specialist mental health interventions, to those children most at risk of developing poor mental health, as an essential aspect of any CAMHS system. The main vulnerable groups that had been agreed to focus on in Kirklees would be Looked After Children (LAC), children subject to a child protection plan, young people involved in the youth justice system and those at risk of or experiencing child sexual exploitation.

It was reported that work was ongoing with Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board in relation to local CAMHS provision. The Safeguarding Board had agreed to fund a piece of research to support the improvement and transformation of provision for vulnerable children and young people.

The report also highlighted the significant under representation of LAC in CAMHS provision and this had been identified as a key priority to increase the number of LAC receiving interventions through our CAMHS. In the interim, it was noted that escalation protocols had been established between children's social care and the CAMHS provider to raise issues of LAC whose needs needed to be escalated to ensure they received the appropriate interventions.

Information was shared of the work ongoing to simplify the system and establish a single point of access and increase capacity and response times.

The Board noted:

- The development of the transformation plan priority objectives and investment
- The development of the new multiagency CAMHS team for LAC and other vulnerable groups.

RESOLVED - That the CAHMS provision for Looked after Children report be noted.

20 Virtual School Annual Report

Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher, introduced the Virtual School Annual Report. The board were informed the Virtual School was in a transitional phase having moved from the Education Support Team for Looked after Children based in Kirklees Learning Support to become the Kirklees Virtual School for Children and Young People who are in care.

The Virtual School Headteacher was appointed in November 2014. The role of the Virtual School Headteacher was to track, monitor and ensure support for the progress of every looked after child (LAC), belonging to their local authority, as if they attended a single school, as well as to give support to professionals working with LAC placed in Kirklees by other local authorities.

The report was received by the Board and discussion took place concerning the support for LAC in schools and the provision of training for foster carers.

The Board identified the reporting requirements for future reports to the Corporate Parenting Board:

Annual Report: Attainment data and analysis – Virtual School to determine the relevant information

All meetings: Brief exception report including exclusions and children receiving less than 25 hours education a week

The Board requested selected ongoing cross service case studies, selected at random, to be presented to the Board on a regular basis.

RESOLVED - That the Virtual School Annual Report be noted.

21 Fostering Agency Report: 1 July to 30 September 2015

The Board received the Fostering Agency quarterly report and noted its content.

Particular reference was made to the challenge faced in recruiting inhouse foster carers for Kirklees Looked after Children, particularly for children aged 10 plus and sibling groups. A review and update of the marketing and recruitment strategy was to take place to utilise every opportunity/event to promote fostering for Kirklees.

RESOLVED - That the Fostering Agency Report: 1 July to 30 September 2015 be noted.

22 Adoption Agency Report: April to September 2015

The Board received the Adoption Agency Annual Report and noted its content.

The Board noted the reducing number of children with a plan for adoption, which was in line with the regional and national picture. The Adoption Service continued to recruit adopters and support them in finding the right match, whether this was a Kirklees child or a child from another Local Authority. Challenges with the performance on the Adoption Score Card continued, which had been worked on and was closely monitored, with the emphasis always on the children and their needs.

The next steps would be to continue to rigorously pursue adoption plans for children in Kirklees, to maximise the use of the Adoption Support Fund and to play a key role in the regionalisation of adoption.

RESOLVED - That the Adoption Agency Report: April to September 2015 be noted.

23 Management Information

The Board received the Children's Social Care Management Information Report for Quarter 3, 2015-16.

RESOLVED - That the Quarter 3 2015-16 Management Information report be noted.