

Contact Officer: Tish Barker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 13th June 2016

Present: Councillor Karen Allison (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Carole Pattison
Jacqui Gedman
Toni Traynor
Rachel Spencer-Henshall
Marion Gray
Martin Green
Janet Tolley
Matthew Holland

Apologies: Councillor Lisa Holmes
Sarah Callaghan
Steve Collins
Andrew Carden

In attendance:

Observers:

31 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

32 Interests

There were no interests declared.

33 Appointment of Chair

That Cllr Karen Allison be appointed chair for the meeting.

34 Deputations and Petitions

The Corporate Parenting Board received a deputation from Colleen Callaghan on behalf of the Kirklees Fostering Network.

The meeting were informed that members of KFN had worked closely with officers in the council in the past and were keen to continue this to improve outcomes for looked after children.

35 Fosterme - Targeted Fostering Campaign

Karen Jones, Senior Communications Officer – Communities, Transformation and Change, provided a briefing for the Board on the Fosterme – targeted fostering campaign.

The six week campaign, which took place in February and March 2016, had been specifically aimed at recruiting foster carers for teenagers and was covered by digital, print and outdoor advertising media. This included a series of 30 second clip videos to use on social media along with a three minute video on the Kirklees website, with messages from both teenagers and foster carers.

The Board was informed that the Fosterme campaign achieved 30 pieces of positive PR coverage, including coverage on local radio, newspapers and television news. The use of real young people and foster carers made the videos particularly powerful and emotive with positive feedback from colleagues, foster carers and members of the public.

It was noted that this campaign was targeted at recruiting foster carers for teenagers. Further campaigns throughout the year would be more general with some emphasis on fostering children aged 10 and over, plus longer term fostering.

The campaign resulted in 55 initial contact enquiries, specifically for foster carers for teenagers. The Board noted that the outcome from this campaign was not evident as yet, but would be closely monitored. The conversion time from enquiry to gaining approval as a foster carer could take four to six months. The campaign had received less enquiries than in previous years, though previous campaigns had been for general foster care rather than targeted at foster carers for teenagers.

The Board noted the need to recruit more foster carers and long term foster carers. During the last few years the number of foster carers who had retired had been greater than the number recruited and there followed discussion on the need to speak with retiring carers to ascertain the reasons for retiring.

Marion Gray, Learning and Organisational Development Officer, raised a report regarding training for foster carers, which had been due to be considered at a Foster Carers Steering Group, and the need to engage the Foster Carers Steering Group when planning this. Toni Traynor agreed to make sure the next Foster Carers Steering Group would meet.

Further discussion took place regarding working together with other West Yorkshire authorities in promoting the need for foster carers. This had been undertaken in the past and had proved problematic due to different terms and conditions throughout the different councils.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Fosterme – Targeted Fostering Campaign report be received and noted.

(2) That the Head of Corporate Parenting ensure the Foster Carers Steering Group meeting be held.

36 Corporate Parenting Strategy

Toni Traynor, Head of Service - Corporate Parenting, presented the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy. The strategy set out the ambitions for the Council as Corporate Parent for looked after children and care leavers.

The strategy stated how Kirklees intended to fulfil its corporate parenting responsibilities in a way that put children and young people at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the council's services.

The vision for looked after children and care leavers in Kirklees was that every child reached their full potential, to be happy, healthy, safe, and feel loved, valued and respected.

It was noted that the strategy set out the national and local contexts which underpinned the council's Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Strategy took into account the need to reduce the level of risk and improve outcomes, with everything underpinned by the voice of the child.

Data had been collated from services throughout the council and used to structure the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Board expressed the need to consider how the collated data could be used as intelligence in improving outcomes for individual children and young people.

It was noted that the Corporate Parenting Strategy provided broad outcomes and would benefit from being developed further. It was agreed that officers would look at broadening the strategy. A further report is due to come to the Board, 'Transformation of Corporate Parenting', which will consider how strategies for Corporate Parenting are agreed.

Toni Traynor advised that the Terms of Reference for the Board would be revisited and brought to the Board at a future date.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved.

(2) That further work to be undertaken to broaden and develop the plan.