

Contact Officer: Tish Barker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Thursday 28th July 2016

Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Gemma Wilson
Toni Traynor, Head of Corporate Parenting
Sarah Callaghan, Director for Children's Services
Marion Gray, Learning & Organisational Development Manager
Martin Green, Deputy Assistant Director
Matthew Holland, Head of Children's Trust Management & Development

Apologies: Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Carole Pattison
Carly Speechley
Janet Tolley
Gill Ellis

In attendance: Melanie Tiernan, Service Manager
John Heneghan, Head of Policy
Linda Patterson, Head of Corporate Parenting
Belinda Cashman, Team Manager
Mandy Cameron, Deputy Assistant Director, Learning & Skills
Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

1 Introductions & Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Carole Pattison, Cllr Karen Allison, Janet Tolley, Gill Ellis and Carly Speechley.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2016 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

The Panel considered the exclusion of the public and determined that all agenda items be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

7 The Role of the Corporate Parent

Toni Traynor, Head of Corporate Parenting and Matthew Holland, Head of Children's Trust Management and Development gave the Board a presentation advising on the collective responsibility of the Council to provide the best care and protection for children and young people who are 'Looked After'. Toni advised that the Board's a key role was to monitor how the Council discharges its corporate parenting responsibilities.

Matthew advised that there had been a significant increase in the Looked After Children numbers in Kirklees over the recent period and that abuse or neglect were the largest main categories of need.

The presentation went on to provide an overview of the legislative requirements in relation to Looked After Children and gave an overview of the profile of Looked After Children for 2015/16. A table within the presentation compared the Kirklees Looked After Children population, with regional and national benchmarks and this showed that Kirklees were well below the statistical neighbours and regions across the Yorkshire and Humber but were slightly above the averages across England.

A second table within the presentation showed that the majority (59%) of children Looked After at 31 March 2016 were aged 10 and over, with 132 children aged 16 and above (20%) and 252 aged 10 to 15 (39 percent). 42 children were Looked After under the age of one (6%) and a comparison with 2015 data was also evidenced.

It was highlighted that there'd been 872 incidents of "Missing" during 2015/16, across 112 children and that this sometimes had a direct relationship with incidents of Child Sexual Exploitation.

It was explained that there is a statutory duty to ensure that health assessments are carried out for every Looked After Children child in our care, and that of the 453 children who had been Looked After for at least 12 months, 98% had had their health assessments on time. It was highlighted that a concern relating to this area was work that took place with other authorities as focus and priority tended to be with their own responsibilities.

The presentation moved on to provide a highlight of current data and highlighted that the most prominent age group of Looked After Children in Kirklees was still the age group between 10-15 and that the numbers of Looked After Children placed in foster care has risen since the April update to 72%. 64% had been looked after for 2 ½ years and were in the same placement and Looked After Children with 3 or more placements during the previous 12 months was 11.6%. It was advised that this was a key performance indicator and an area of focus for improvement.

The Board was advised that 16% of Looked After Children are placed outside the LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live and that 42% were placed outside of Kirklees.

RESOLVED - That the update be received, with thanks to Toni and Matthew for their attendance.

8 Our Looked After Child Profile

This item was considered as part of agenda item 7.

RESOLVED - That the update received during agenda item 7 be noted.

9 Key Priorities

John Heneghan, Head of Policy and Belinda Cashman, Team Manager presented the Board with a draft report on the Kirklees Looked after Children's Accommodation Market Position Statement and an update on the transformation within Corporate Parenting.

The report sought to identify how the Council could collectively raise the bar for outcomes of Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The report advised that the progress of the Kirklees Cares Project was being reviewed. They explained that young people had been consulted through a questionnaire and that a Care Leavers Forum had been established.

They explained that a number of schemes had been identified to provide peer support to Care Leavers but that further work was required in regards to developing a model of delivery, clarifying the mentoring role, identifying and training mentors and developing a framework for the scheme.

Sarah Callaghan, Director for Children's Services advised that the main principle of the project was to demonstrate the impact caused by the project to be sure the team was engaging appropriately. She explained that sometimes, the things that matter to the children involved, aren't identified as measurable outcomes and that this needed to be incorporated. Sarah went on to highlight that, going forward, the Board would need to consider how information and data would be fed back to the Board; outcome based accountability was identified as a potential way to do this and the Board agreed that further discussion should take place around this.

Sarah also advised the Panel that a celebration event had recently taken place for Adopters and that this had proven to be a successful and positive way for thanking the adopters for their commitment to Looked After Children in Kirklees.

RESOLVED - That the update be received, with thanks to John and Belinda for their attendance.

10 Proposals for Refreshing the Corporate Parenting Board

The Board received a draft report that detailed a best practice guide for the arrangement of the Board.

The Board noted that the report set out 7 main priority areas that would be the focus of the Board. It was highlighted that an item at the front of each cover report to the Board, identifying which of the priority areas is being covered, would assist the Board in evidencing how the Board is meeting its responsibilities.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the update be received, with thanks to Toni for producing and presenting to the Board.

(2) That the Board request that reports presented to the Board should contain a summary box on the front page of the report, identifying which of the priority areas is being covered.