

Contact Officer: Tish Barker

## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**Monday 20th February 2017**

Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)  
Councillor Karen Allison  
Councillor Andrew Marchington  
Councillor Fazila Fadia  
Councillor Gemma Wilson  
Jacqui Gedman  
Steve Collins  
Andrew Carden  
Carly Speechley  
Martin Green  
Janet Tolley  
Matthew Holland  
Gill Ellis, Interim Strategic Director for Children & Young  
People Service

Apologies: Rachel Spencer-Henshall  
Marion Gray, Learning & Organisational Development  
Manager

#### **1 Membership of the Board/Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Director of Public Health and Marion Gray, Learning & Organisational Development Manager.

#### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2017 be approved as a correct record.

#### **3 Interests**

No interests were declared.

#### **4 Admission of the Public**

The Panel considered the question of the admission of the public and determined that item 13 on the agenda would be held in private session.

**5 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

No questions were received.

**7 Terms of Reference/Membership of the Board**

That the report be noted and submitted to the annual meeting of the Council (24 May 2017) with the recommendation that approval be given to updating the terms of reference and membership of the Board, as set out in the report.

Martin Green, Deputy Assistant Director presented the Board with a report seeking approval for a revised Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership for the Board to be considered for adoption at the Annual Council meeting in May 2017.

Martin explained that there had been minor amendments to the ToR, with wording being amended to reflect current practice in Children's Services. He explained that ToR 13 and 14 had been removed completely as the Virtual School had its own Governing Body and the influence of young people had been captured with the ToR on "Voice of the Child".

Julie Mephram then explained that she was seeking to reduce the frequency of the cycle of meetings and outlined the proposed new membership for the Board:

- Cabinet Portfolio Lead Member
- Elected Members representing all political parties
- Assistant Director, Family Support & Child Protection
- Head of Corporate Parenting
- Virtual Head Teacher
- Assistant Director, Learning and Skills
- Health Commissioning representative
- Head of Independent Review and Advocacy

Julie explained that representatives from a range of services and partner agencies would also invited as appropriate, dependent on the items being considered at each meeting.

The Board was advised that the membership did not include the Director for Children's Services and it was felt appropriate to include the Director on the distribution list, along with partner representatives. The Board felt this would enable partners to maintain an understanding of the Board's focuses and priorities.

Gill Ellis, Interim Director for Children and Young People outlined that twice termly meetings would fit in with performance management timescales and the Board agreed that those timescales would work well. It was also advised that a half day informal event could be included as an annual event within the agenda plan to

enable the Board to interact with young people and include them within the business of the Board.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted and submitted to the annual meeting of the Council (24 May 2017) with the recommendation that approval be given to updating the terms of reference and membership of the Board, as set out in the report.

## 8 Stability Triangle and Performance Reporting

Abi Ajayi, Team Manager presented the Board with a report on the latest available performance data. The report provided data on specifically requested information applicable to maintaining the “stability triangle”.

Abi explained that there were more children coming into care than there were leaving care but that the number of looked after children (LAC) was roughly in line with statistical neighbours.

Abi advised that the majority of admissions to care came through independent care orders and the majority of places were within fostering placements. She explained that the longer term stability of placements was quite stable but children who were new into care tended to be placed within a number of placements.

Julie Mepham explained that there is a significant issue with stability of places and that the service was working across West Yorkshire to address this. She advised that the new Director for Place would be leading on sufficiency planning.

Cllr Marchington questioned what work was taking place on identifying the cause of children coming into care and targeted support to help families. Julie explained that there was a group currently looking at Edge of Care in an attempt to identify required support. The Board questioned whether an update on this area could be considered at a future meeting and Julie advised that when the work was complete, an update report would be drafted.

Abi moved on to explain that statutory visits had improved dramatically and explained that this increase wasn't because the visits weren't previously being done but that the recording of the visits had got smarter.

The Board highlighted that they would like some additional data to be included within the report, under the stability triangle:

Placement & accommodation

- Capacity available

Significant relationship

- Number of changes of social worker

Education, Employment & Training

- School moves

**RESOLVED** - That:

- (1) the content of the report be noted, with thanks to Abi Ajayi.
- (2) up to date data relating to the stability triangle be presented to every Board meeting in order for the Board to monitor the performance in these areas.

**9 Virtual Head Teacher Report**

Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher presented the Board with the draft Head Teacher's report from August 2016. The report outlined progress made against the priorities identified for 2015-16 and highlighted the improvement priorities for 2016-17.

Janet explained that there were changes to the way results are reported in 2016 which meant that KS2 results can now not be compared to any result prior to 2016. She advised that once the statistical first release of data is available, there would be more to report on.

Janet outlined the priorities for 2016/17 outlining that there were cross service priorities as well as priorities that will be delivered directly by the Virtual School (VS):

Strategic priorities – cross service

- Working as a 0-19 VS - key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - Ensure VS has capacity to implement the agreed developments
- Corporate Parenting responsibility - key areas to address in 2016/17 include:
  - Ongoing development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
  - Ongoing development of the corporate data dashboard
- Stability – key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - Commissioning and funding out of area placements where education needs are complex
  - Strategic work to reduce the number of school, placement and Social Worker changes
  - Developing the work of the Accommodation Strategy Group
- Outcomes for other local authority looked after children (LAC) - key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - Working strategically with the Improving Outcomes for the other local authority looked after children group
- Role of the VS for adopted children - key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - Working strategically with the Regional Adoption Group
  - Ensuring the Virtual School has sufficient resources to address this work

Strategic priorities – Virtual School

- Pupil support and intervention - key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - Effective and efficient deployment of resources
  - Regular and systematic monitoring of intervention and support

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- Pupil premium – key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - To develop a systematic, analytical approach to monitor the impact of Pupil Premium
- Data - key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - Engage with the Leadership Team to ensure the needs of the Virtual School are met with the ongoing updates to Kirklees systems
  - Strategically work across services to improve data reliability and accuracy
  - Ensure all available data is being used to inform further development of the VS
- Personal Education Plans (PEP) - key areas to address in 2016/17 include
  - To develop a Quality assurance that is not solely dependent on Headteacher signoff.
  - To improve the accuracy and detail of Special Educational Needs information and the attachment of documentation
  - Increase capacity within the Virtual School to ensure timely chase up and completion of PEP's.

Janet identified that 40% of LAC were placed in schools in other local authorities and explained this was one of the reasons why sufficiency had to remain a key priority. Janet also identified that SEN support within the VS was a big issue. The Board questioned whether the issues experienced by LAC were the same issues experienced by all children when looking at meeting the required educational standards. Janet explained that when looking at GCSE results, two things were consistent in LAC who gained 5 GCSE's A\* - C; consistent primary school education and attendance at only one High School.

### **RESOLVED -**

That;

- (1) the update be received, with thanks to Janet.
- (2) A further update be presented to the Board once the statistical first release data is available.

## **10 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan**

That the agenda plan for future meetings be noted.

The Board considered its agenda plan for future meetings and noted the change in time and venue for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED -** That the agenda plan for future meetings be noted.

## **11 Dates of Future Meetings**

The Board noted the dates of future meetings of the Board.

**RESOLVED -** That the next meeting of the Board be held on 20 March 2017 at 4.00pm at the Huddersfield University.

**12 Exclusion of the Public**

**13 Missing Children Report**

(This report was considered in private because the information contained in it is exempt information within Paragraph 6 of part 1 to schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to Information) variation order 2006. The report contains information relating to the adoption, care, fostering or education of any particular child. The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the information in terms of accountability, transparency and openness in council decision making.)

Gill Ellis provided the Board with an update on the multi-agency assessments of missing children and young people in Kirklees.

**RESOLVED** - hat the content of the report be noted.