

Contact Officer: Alaina McGlade

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 16th January 2017

- Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Fazila Fadia
Jacqui Gedman
Steve Collins
Andrew Carden
Martin Green
Gill Ellis
Julie Mephram
Jo-Anne Sanders
- Apologies: Councillor Gemma Wilson
Rachel Spencer-Henshall
Carly Speechley
Marion Gray
Janet Tolley
Matthew Holland, Head of Children's Trust Management and Development
- In attendance: Abi Ajayi, Service Team Manager
Belinda Cashman, Service Team Manager
Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

1 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Gemma Wilson, Carly Speechley, Assistant Director – Family Support & Child Protection, Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Director of Public Health, Marion Gray, Learning & Organisational Development Manager, Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher and Matthew Holland, Head of Children's Trust Management & Development.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 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 Young People Engagement

Belinda Cashman, Service Team Manager attended the meeting and presented a report that detailed options for capturing the voice of young people in Kirklees.

It was advised that this matter was discussed at the last Corporate Parenting Board meeting held on the 28th November 2016 following discussions with the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum with corporate parents in early November. It was further advised that discussions had now also taken place with the Service Manager for Looked After Children (LAC) and Leaving Care Service, Team Managers from the Leaving Care Service and the Service Manager from the Children's Rights Service.

The report outlined a number of options for capturing the voice of young people in Kirklees:

- **The Pledge for Children in Care and Care Leavers**

It was advised that the current Kirklees Pledge was reviewed in 2014 and is required to be updated during 2017.

- **The Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum**

It was advised that Kirklees Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is an effective Children in Care Council that represents the views and wishes of children and young people in care and leaving care. It also has a responsibility for ensuring their recommendations and suggestions are taken seriously and that there is a direct link to the Corporate Parenting Board.

- **Ensuring greater sustained engagement and participation of Children and Young People**

It was advised that children and young people participate by different means and that they have advised that they would like to communicate using social media. The use of face book and twitter is being explored with colleagues across Kirklees Council within the LAC 15+ and the Leaving Care Service and in liaison with other local authorities who are already successfully using this technology. The Board was also

advised that discussions have also taken place in regards to the potential development of an App.

- **Purpose of the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum and its Impact**

It was advised that a review of the Care Leavers Forum will take place with a relaunch in January 2017. The purpose of the event is to look at the current structure and arrangements, the terms of reference and; to identify key themes and issues, firm up project work and tasks and to explore options to ensure more young people are able to participate.

- **Wider consultation and co-production with Looked after Children and Young People**

It was advised that there have been additional opportunities for young people to participate and be involved with Kirklees Cares project looking at their experiences of being looked after and leaving care. This has focused on what has worked well and what could be done better. Technology such as "View Point", an app or the hosting of Activity Events could be considered, which would allow younger children to attend an event with their carers, enjoy a range of activities such as sport and arts, as well as providing wider opportunities to feedback and consult.

- **Developing strong links between the Children in Care Council, Care Leavers Forum and the Corporate Parenting Board.**

It was advised that changes within the management and organisational arrangements have meant the links between the Council, Forum and Board have not developed as they should.

- **Influence of Individual Young People**

It was advised that wider services needed to improve the collation of children and young people's views, whether from direct work, reviews, complaints and compliments and exit interviews. Learning from compliments; complaints and concerns raised by children and young people are required to be understood and the service needs to be able to demonstrate the impact this has had on service delivery.

- **Wider considerations as part of One Council**

It was advised that in considering the engagement of looked after children and young people, consideration should be given as to whether the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum are better supported by the Children's Rights Service or within the IYCE Service.

The Chair explained that there were two key considerations to this area:

- (1) the practical considerations around capturing the views and being assured its being done.
- (2) the cultural change required to ensure the voice of the young person is being captured, regardless of the service involved.

The Board was satisfied with the options put forward for improving future communication with young people but advised that young people's views regarding the development of this area should be sought and used to influence the changes required. It was felt important the contact with young people should be in environments familiar to the young people, rather than asking young people to attend formal board meetings.

The Board advised that the communication with young people was required to be two way and that honest and open feedback was required to be provided to the young people when they have participated in an engagement activity. They also identified the need for the development of this area to feed into the wider children's participation offer.

RESOLVED - That;

- (1) The update be received, with thanks to Belinda.
- (2) A report detailing the updates made to the Kirklees Pledge for Children in Care and Care Leavers be considered by the Board at the meeting in March.
- (3) The Board supports investigation into the development of an "app" and further updates on the timescales and progress be presented to the Board.
- (4) The Board supports the principles of the "You Said, We Did" framework for communication with young people and approve the adoption of this framework, subject to seeking the views of young people and further investigation into the different methods available for reporting back to young people.
- (5) The Board was satisfied with the suggestions put forward in relation to co-production with Looked After Children and Young People and developing links between the Children in Care Council, Care Leavers Forum and the Corporate Parenting Board, but that further work was required to enable to the Board to approve suggested routes.
- (6) The Board recommends the services to research what methods are being used elsewhere in relation to capturing and sharing the views of young people and incorporate this into the report being presented to the Board at its March meeting.

8 OFSTED

Gill Ellis, Interim Director for Children and Young People presented a briefing note detailing options for how the Board would monitor and review key issues relating to Looked After Children and care leavers, as highlighted within the recommendations of the Ofsted inspection report of November 2016.

The Board was made aware that an Improvement Plan had been drafted and would be presented at the January Improvement Board. It was advised that full recommendations would be made available to the Corporate Parenting Board for discussion and action following sign off from the Improvement Board.

The Board was made aware that the Department for Education (DfE) have appointed a Commissioner, Eleanor Brazil to work with the Council. It was also advised that the Improvement Board was in place, chaired by an Independent Chair and that there was a wide, cross partner membership group in place on the Board.

The Board was told that a Programme Manager, Kathryn Loftus, was now in place to oversee the progress of plans and actions and that she has a team of officers working with her to progress the Improvement Plan and hold services and officers to account.

Gill explained that a detailed plan, in draft format, to address the Ofsted Recommendations was being prepared and would be implemented by Heads of Service and members of the Senior Leadership Team. The plan linked to the 4 key priorities –

- Front door (MASH)
- Workforce,
- Sufficiency
- Performance

And would address actions under the following headings:

- Leadership,
- Governance and
- Management Accountability;
- Child and Family Experience;
- Working in Partnership
- Quality of Practice

The Chair explained that the Board would like to continue to monitor the actions in relation to the improvement journey and would use the information to develop the function of the Corporate Parenting Board and further contribute to the progress being made as part of the Improvement Plan.

The Board identified that they needed to reflect on specific actions within the Improvement Plan that related to LAC and identify the areas that required addressing immediately. It was felt that development of the membership of the Board to include strategic partners would assist the Board in identifying the roles of different organisations in relation to the priorities and improvements required. It would also assist the Board to take full ownership of the improvements to be made in relation to LAC.

RESOLVED - That;

- (1) The update be received, with thanks to Gill.
- (2) Further update reports be presented to the Board to enable the Board to monitor actions relevant to LAC and contribute to the Improvement Plan where appropriate.

9 Terms of Reference

The Board held a discussion regarding amendments required to be made to the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure the Board is able to monitor whether the Council and its partners effectively discharge their role as Corporate Parents for all their Children in Care.

The Board outlined the below areas as some key outcome areas in relation to LAC:

- Education
- Housing
- Sufficiency

Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting advised that sufficiency of places was key to the success in this area. She explained that it is difficult to wrap Kirklees values around a child that is placed outside of the area. She advised that “quick wins” were required to help determine and impact upon long term solutions in this area.

The Board identified that they needed to be clear regarding what they aim to achieve and build the membership and Terms of Reference around those aims. It was also identified that the role of the Board needed to be considered alongside the purpose of the other children’s governance boards. The Board advised that the whole governance structure relating to children and young people should be included within the review of the Terms of Reference to ensure that the right conversations were happening at the right places. This would also enable smooth communication links between all of the decision making bodies.

RESOLVED - That;

- (1) The update be received, with thanks to Martin and Julie.
- (2) An updated Terms of Reference be presented to the Board at their next meeting;
 - a. To include an updated membership for the Board, identifying key partner agencies that are able to contribute to the development of practices relating to Looked After Children.
 - b. To include a governance structure that outlines the pathways of Children’s Decision Making and demonstrates opportunities for feedback between the associated Boards.

10 Preparation for Independence

Belinda Cashman provided an update to the Corporate Parenting Board with regard to the preparation for independence support that will be offered to 16 and 17 year old looked after children and care leavers, who may be at risk of losing their accommodation or are homeless.

The Board was advised that a meeting took place with Asdan in late November 2016, the Living Independently course provider, to look in more depth at the programme and to look at outcomes for young people with other Local Authorities who have used the programme. It was advised that the course covers key themes of time keeping, household tasks, budgeting and cooking.

Belinda explained that a meeting took place on the 6th December, between colleagues in fostering, residential and housing, to look at the format of the programme and how this could be taken forward. This included devising a framework for services and young people’s to measure their progress and assist the service in measuring the impact of the programme.

The Board was advised that an order had been placed with Asdan to enable the Local Authority to become a registered centre. Initially, the programme will be delivered in two Local Authority homes to approximately 10 – 15 young people. This was envisaged to commence in late January 2017, with the task group reviewing learning and impact before rolling out to all 16 & 17 year olds.

RESOLVED - That;

- (1) The content of the report be noted with thanks to Belinda.
- (2) A further update report, providing an evaluation of the programme, be presented to the Board in March.

11 Performance Data/ Exception Report

Abi Ajayi, Service Team Manager provided the Board with a diagram outlining the different types of data that is monitored in relation to LAC, to enable the Board to identify which data they would like to be included in a standing data monitoring report. The key areas covered were:

- Placements
- Health
- Existing volumes
- Attainment
- Coming into care
- Care Leavers
- Attendance and wellbeing
- Voice of the child (it was advised that this area permits across the whole data set)

Gill Ellis explained that the key indicators to be considered were data sets relevant to the stability triangle:

- Stability of placement
- Stability of education
- Stability of significant adult

Gill advised that narrative behind how the service was working to maintain this stability would be a key monitoring point for the Board. She also advised that narrative should be provided behind any disruptions to the data, in order to assist the Board with their understanding and enable them to identify whether learning can be identified for the future.

The Board identified that they felt one of their roles in this area was to set targets and that these targets should contribute to the gap that is trying to be closed. They also explained that they needed explanations regarding data that may not have met targets to enable them to understand any problems faced and to effectively hold the service to account.

RESOLVED - That;

- (1) The content of the report be noted with thanks to Abi.
- (2) A draft standing report be developed and presented at the next meeting of the Board in February, including:
 - a. key performance indicators applicable to maintaining the “stability triangle”;
 - b. explanatory narrative to explain the story behind the indicators.

12 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

The Board was presented with an updated agenda plan outlining priority focus descriptions against each of the future meetings. The plan then outlined relevant agenda items against the priorities and the contact officer for each of the items.

RESOLVED - That the content of the report be noted.

13 Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED - That the future meeting dates of the Board be noted.