

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 8/05/2017
Title of report: Corporate Parent Service update

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Director of Resources? Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director (Legal Governance and Monitoring)?	
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Erin Hill

Electoral wards affected: ALL
Ward councillors consulted: NIL
Public or private: PUBLIC

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to brief the Corporate Parenting Panel on the current developments in the Corporate Parenting Service and the plans for the future of the service.

2. Summary

The Corporate Parenting Service encompasses: looked after children, leaving care, residential homes, fostering, placement finding, connected person assessments & support and the contact service.

Service plans are in place are reviewed and updated monthly by the service managers who report directly to the Head of Service. All updates are fed into the improvement plan.

We have seen an increased number of older children/ young people (13-16 year olds) being accommodated. The plan, as part of the sufficiency strategy, is to develop an edge of care service to ensure work is done with families to stop children entering care where we can better support them at home. This aligned with a more robust "front door" will ensure that we have the right children accommodated at the right time.

We have a current target to recruit an additional 21 carers each year (this being a net figure so we would need to recruit about 30 carers taking into consideration retirement of carers etc.) for the next three years. This is an achievable target but current work to analyse why this has not been working needs to take effect. At time of writing there are 20 new assessments underway. This is very positive and will positively impact on the numbers of Kirklees carers available for our children. It should be noted that not all 20 will become carers and that additionally we will have carers retiring within this financial year. However; we are confident that in year 2017/18 the fostering service will no longer be working within a deficit model.

The leaving care service has recently recruited to a number of permanent personal advisor posts and an experienced team manager post. Pathway planning training continues to be rolled across the LAC and leaving care service. The impact of this is an improvement in the quality of plans. At time of writing 81% of plans are on the system and up to date. This is an improving figure.

Young Dewsbury, which is drop in venue, goes from strength to strength. There have been 26 sessions which equals a total of 169 Drop ins between 27/01/2017 & 28/04/2017 with an average of 6.5 individual attendances per drop in. Records show that 39 individuals make up the 169 drop-ins. The highest number of young people dropping in to 25 of the 26 sessions, followed by a cohort of 10 attending between 6 and 18 sessions. A further 10 attended more than once but never more than on 6 occasions, and the remainder 18 using the facility just once.

Young people use the drop-in to use the public access computers, to collect food parcels (be fed) , meet professionals from housing support services and careers. Meet with their PA / Social worker and to receive advice / guidance and emotional support from the team based at the provision

The refurbishment of the new drop base under Civic 1 is moving at pace and it is envisaged that we will be open for business in August. Young people are involved the refurb project.

The PA service needs to be extended in 2017/18 to be compliant, as per Guidance and Regulations and the Ofsted report recommendations, to ensure looked after young people aged 16+ have a PA to the age of 25. Support will be needed from senior managers and the Corporate Parent Board to ensure this happens in a timely way.

The pilot life skills project will is being rolled out across our children's homes and with two supported accommodation providers and with the young person's housing support service. An outcome report will be presented to the Board in September.

Performance in the Corporate Parenting Service in terms of children's plans is an improving picture with 79% of plans being in place at time of writing.

The Contact Service is under review and a report on the outcome will be presented to the Board at a future date.

We have appointed a new service manager to oversee our children's homes, Laura Counce. All of our homes are sustained effectiveness at Ofsted which is positive. All are at capacity in terms of placements.

Service is working with the Director of Place and other partners across the Council to undertake a needs analysis of current and projected placement need in terms of our sufficiency planning. This will inform the sufficiency strategy and plan. This plan will be presented to the Improvement Board in June. If agreed this will be presented to the July Corporate Parenting Board.

3. Information required to take a decision

That the Board read the report and take into consideration the content of the summary.

4. Implications for the Council

Increasing the sufficiency will have very substantial cost savings for the authority. This will also enable us to provide the best quality of care to our children that we will manage and control.

5. Consultees and their opinions

6. Next steps

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

- That the board take note of the information contained within the report.

8. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

9. Contact officer: Julie Mepham Julie.mepham@kirklees.gov.uk

10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

11. Assistant Director responsible: Anne Coyle