

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.

Contact Officer: Alaina McGlade

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 24th April 2017

Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Fazila Fadia
Gill Ellis, Interim Strategic Director for Children & Young People
Anne Coyle, Service Director for Family Support & Child Protection
Martin Green, Deputy Assistant Director
Steve Collins, Calderdale & Kirklees Careers
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher

Apologies: Councillor Gemma Wilson
Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting
Jo-Anne Sanders, Acting Assistant Director for Learning & Skills
Andrew Carden, Integrated Children's Service Manager
Marion Gray, Learning & Organisational Development Manager
Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Director of Public Health

In attendance: Rob Finney, Interim Fostering Team Manager
Sue Griggs, Performance Lead for Children & Young People
Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

1 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Gemma Wilson, Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting, Jo-Anne Sanders, Acting Assistant Director for Learning & Skills, Andrew Carden, Integrated Children's Service Manager, Marion Gray, Learning & Organisational Development Manager and Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Director of Public Health.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2017 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of Minute 9 from '...and attendance at only one High School.' to '...and a single social worker.'

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 all items would be considered in public.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

7 Feedback - Young People Event

The Chair advised that a number of Board Members had attended an informal event at the University where feedback had been sought from a number of young people.

Everyone in attendance at the event agreed it had been extremely beneficial and that these informal meetings should continue in order to provide consistent feedback to the young people on suggestions they raise. It was outlined that honest communication was required when liaising with young people so as to maintain meaningful feedback sessions whilst not raising unrealistic expectations.

Board Members outlined that the way in which the outcomes of young people would be improved as a result of the access to the facilities that will be created through the amended use of the old registrar's office, needed to be demonstrated clearly. It was explained that a number of benefits from these facilities will relate directly to the recommendations contained within the improvement plan.

The Board also agreed that regular informal events with young people should be arranged for the forthcoming municipal year and that these events should assist to create a consistent feedback mechanism between the Board and young people.

RESOLVED -

That an update on the progress made at the old register office site be considered at a meeting of the Board in the new municipal year.

8 Commissioner's Report - Preparation for Independence

RESOLVED -

That this item be deferred to the first meeting of the Board in the new municipal year.

9 Adoption Regionalisation Update

The Board was advised that since 2015, Kirklees has been part of an early adopter scheme with Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Consortium to consider how high quality adoption services could be offered on a regional or sub-regional basis.

It was explained that this has progressed and between September 2016 and December 2016, Cabinet approval was given in all 5 West Yorkshire Local Authorities to establish a sub-regional Adoption Agency, named as One Adoption Agency, with Leeds City Council acting as the host for this agency.

Anne Coyle, Service Director for Family Support & Child Protection explained that all five Local Authorities have worked together to ensure that staff in all 5 Local Authorities were fully consulted; there was engagement with the relevant Unisons; consultation with adopters and adopted children and young people and discussions regarding IT; Finance, HR matters, Information Sharing and Performance Data. It was also explained that there had been engagement with Adoption Matters and Barnardos as representatives of the Voluntary Adoption Agencies in the region.

It was advised that the One Adoption Agency came into effect and for Kirklees on 1 April 2017 and that this would mean:

- All prospective adopters that reside in the Kirklees area will be assessed, approved and supported by the One Adoption Agency;
- Adoption Support to adopters, children and birth families will be provided by the One Adoption Agency;
- Family Finding for all children who have a plan for adoption is being carried out by the One Adoption Agency;
- Kirklees Children's Services remains responsible for all of the looked after children who have a plan for adoption until an Adoption Order is made;
- Kirklees Children's Services remains responsible for the performance against the Adoption Score Card and Ofsted will continue to assess performance against the Score Card.

The Board was advised that there would be a period of transition as staff in the 5 Local Authorities move to new work bases and whilst they take on a new role and put new practices in place.

In terms of Kirklees staff, the vast majority were given their first preference in terms of work base and role and a significant number of Social Workers and Managers from Kirklees had been retained and were now part of One Adoption, based at Riverbank. It was explained that there were many benefits to be gained from this, in relation to continuity and working relationships with staff in Children's Services.

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It was highlighted that this was the first sub-regional Adoption Agency to come into place nationally.

Cllr Marchington questioned how the current adoption panels that include Members would integrate into the new system. Cllr Hill advised that it was her understanding that involvement of Members at a local level was to be retained.

The Board outlined that regular updates on the progress made in this area were important to enable the Board to monitor its effectiveness.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the update be received, with thanks to Anne.
- (2) A further update be considered by the Board in 3 months' time.

10 Performance Report

The Board considered a report that was tabled at the meeting, which provided an end of year summary with an overview of all the agreed indicators that monitor the performance relevant for the Corporate Parenting Board. It was advised that there were 63 indicators in total.

The Board agreed that any questions or issue arising from the performance information within the report should be considered at the next meeting due to the Board being unable to consider the detailed information in the report within the time allowed for the item.

RESOLVED –

That the content of the report be noted, with thanks to Sue and that a detailed discussion on the information take place at the next meeting of the Board.

11 Fostering Agency Report

Rob Finney, Interim Fostering Team Manager advised the Board that as of the end of March 2017, the council had 683 Looked After Children. It was explained that the fostering service currently looks after 298 of these children and young people. Of these, 90 were placed with connected (friends and family) carers and 217 with mainstream (recruited) carers.

It was also advised that 188 young people were placed with external Independent Fostering Agencies and it was explained that there is an additional cost to placing with external agencies. Therefore, a successful recruitment and retention strategy was one of the key development areas for the service in order to significantly increase the number of carers available to the fostering service.

It was explained that the current fostering development plan is focused on three main areas of practice:

- Business planning
- Compliance
- Quality Assurance

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Rob explained that it was currently taking 9 months to complete the adoption process but that by reducing the current 2 stage process down to a single stage, it was envisaged that this timeframe could be reduced to 4 months.

Gill Ellis, Interim Strategic Director for Children & Young People advised that neighbouring authorities had advised that a reduction in paperwork for foster carers had helped reduce timescales also.

Rob advised that a good number of enquiries were received but that the current recruitment strategies were not as effective as they could be. He explained that a response to each initial enquiry needed to be made within 72 hours and that marketing strategies were required to be implemented in order to sell the advantages of fostering for the Local Authority.

Rob also advised that work was ongoing to re-establish a positive working relationship with the Kirklees Fostering Network and include them within the programme of induction and training.

Rob advised that a quality assurance framework was in place and that a business plan had been developed. The aim of the business plan was to add an additional 63 carers to the Local Authority's team within the next three years. He explained that additional foster carers in the system would enable expensive residential places appropriately. Anne explained that transferring residential children to fostering placements is a complex process and that the Board may benefit from a presentation explaining the process. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to receive a presentation that assisted them to understand the operational processes.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the update be noted, with thanks to Rob.
- (2) A presentation explaining the operational processes relating to the transfer of placements be arranged for a meeting of the Board in the new municipal year.

12 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

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 items for the last meeting of the Board be noted and agreed.

13 Dates of Future Meetings

The Board noted the date of the last meeting of the Board for the 2016/17 municipal year.

RESOLVED -

That the next meeting of the Board be held on 15 May 2017 at 10am in Huddersfield Town Hall.

Contact Officer: Tish Barker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 15th May 2017

Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Fazila Fadia
Councillor Gemma Wilson
Gill Ellis, Interim Strategic Director for Children & Young People
Jo-Anne Sanders, Acting Assistant Director for Learning & Skills
Anne Coyle, Service Director for Family Support & Child Protection
Martin Green, Deputy Assistant Director
Julie Mephram, Head of Corporate Parenting
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher

In attendance: Laura Counce, Residential Team Manager
Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Apologies: Naz Parkar, Strategic Director – Economy & Infrastructure
Andrew Carden, Integrated Children’s Service Manager
Marion Gray, Learning & Organisational Development Manager
Steve Collins, Calderdale & Kirklees Careers
Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Director of Public Health

1 Membership of the Board/Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Naz Parkar, Strategic Director – Economy & Infrastructure, Andrew Carden, Integrated Children’s Service Manager, Steve Collins, Calderdale & Kirklees Careers, 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 24 April 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 all items would be considered in public.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Revised Terms of Reference/ Annual Report

The Board considered a report which set out the proposed amended terms of reference and the re-constitution of the Board, prior to consideration at Annual Council.

RESOLVED –

That the revised Terms of Reference be submitted to Annual Council with a recommendation for approval.

7 Service Plan Update

The Board considered a report which updated the Board on the current developments in the Corporate Parenting Service and the plans for the future of the service.

The Board was advised that service plans are reviewed and updated monthly by the service managers who report directly to the Head of Service and that all updates are fed into the improvement plan.

Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting advised that an increased number of older children/ young people (13-16 year olds) were being placed into accommodation by the service. She explained that as part of the sufficiency strategy, an edge of care service was being developed, that along with a more robust “front door” will ensure that we have the right children accommodated at the right time. It was also advised that cross service working with the Director of Place and other partners across the Council was already taking place. A needs analysis of current and projected placements is to be undertaken to inform the sufficiency strategy and plan. This plan will be presented to the Improvement Board in June, and if agreed, will then be presented to the July Corporate Parenting Board.

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She explained that the service have a current target to recruit an additional 21 carers each year for the next three years and that at that point in time, there were 20 new assessments underway. She explained that this was very positive but explained that it should be noted that not all 20 would become carers and that additionally, carers would be retiring within the financial year.

It was advised that the leaving care service had recently recruited to a number of permanent personal advisor posts and an experienced team manager post and that at the current time, 81% of plans are on the system were up to date; this was an improving figure.

Julie advised that Young Dewsbury, the drop in venue, had been going from strength to strength with 26 sessions having taken place between 27/01/2017 & 28/04/2017. It was explained that young people use the drop-in to use the public access computers, to collect food parcels, meet professionals from Housing Support Services and Careers, meet with their Personal Advisor / Social worker and to receive advice, guidance and emotional support from the team based at the provision. The refurbishment of the new drop in base under Civic 1 was envisaged to be open for business in August and it was advised that young people are involved in the project.

It was explained that the Personal Advisor service was required to be extended in 2017/18 to be legally compliant, to ensure looked after young people aged 16+ have a PA to the age of 25. Gill Ellis, Interim Strategic Director for Children & Young People advised that a summary of the change in legislation would be provided for the Board.

The report advised that performance in the Corporate Parenting Service in terms of children's plans was an improving picture with 79% of plans being in place at time of writing, however Julie advised that this has since increased to 89% and that the focus was now shifting to quality checks.

RESOLVED –

That the content of the report be noted.

8 Extension of Age Range of Virtual School

Janet Tolley, Virtual School Head Teacher advised the Board that the Virtual School currently operates from a Looked After Child's 3rd birthday through to their 16th birthday or the end of Year 11 education. She explained that this age range did not meet with all of the legal requirements placed on the service.

Janet explained that the links across the Looked After Children service and the Virtual School had been explored and it had been identified that an integrated approach across the services and age range was required.

The Board was made aware that most schools do not have their own sixth form and it had been identified that the point of transition from high school was where support was required. It was advised that recommendation 27 of the OFSTED report referred to this and to assist in meeting this recommendation, approval had been

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given to appoint to a post-16 advisor which would assist in providing this support. A strategic lead and two achievement coordinators would also be recruited to.

Janet explained that the aim was to be involved in problems sooner to avoid acting in crisis once an issue becomes apparent. She explained that three key areas contributed to higher attainment levels in relation to a Looked After Child:

- Residential Stability
- Educational Stability
- Social Worker Stability

Janet distributed a diagram that demonstrated the link between these three areas in relation to providing stability and support to Looked After Children. Gill Ellis, Interim Director for Children & Young People advised that a health component required including within the structure.

She explained that currently, not only was there was a high percentage of Looked After Children moving schools during KS3 but there was a high number that were moving more than once in Years 10 and 11. It was advised that the sufficiency strategy had been developed to enable work to take place on matching placements to need rather than placing in crisis. She explained that this was a difficult area as there is a lack of placements available nationally.

Janet explained that the aim was to start providing this support in time for the forthcoming Year 11 cohort. She also advised that the summer holidays provided a lengthy period of time without contact from schools for the children. This is a time where things can go wrong and Janet explained that a menu for engagement activities needed to be available to continue contact.

Anne Coyle, Interim Service Director for Family Support & Child Protection advised that the Board needed to have an oversight on the attainment levels for Looked After Children. It was advised that this would be included within the standing report for the Board.

RESOLVED -

That the update be received, with thanks to Janet.

9 Performance Report

The Board considered a report providing an end of year summary with an overview of all the agreed indicators that monitor performance relevant to the Corporate Parenting Board.

RESOLVED -

That the content of the report be noted, with special thanks to Sue for the hard work that has gone into developing the performance report into a format beneficial for the Board.

Contact Officer: Alaina McGlade

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 17th July 2017

Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Fazila Fadia
Councillor Gemma Wilson
Jo-Anne Sanders, Acting Assistant Director for Learning & Skills
Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher
Kerrie Scraton, Interim Senior Manager – Safeguarding Assurance
Scott Deacon, Participation Officer

In attendance: Rob Finney, Fostering Team Manager
Alison Waters, Senior Performance Officer
Belinda Cashman, Team Manager – Family Support & Child Protection
Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Apologies: Anne Coyle, Service Director – Child Protection & Family Support
Martin Green, Head of Localities Offer for Children & Families
Tom Brailsford, Head of Joint Commissioning

1 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Anne Coyle, Service Director - Child Protection & Family Support, Martin Green, Head of Localities Offer for Children & Families and Tom Brailsford, Head of Joint Commissioning.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 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 all items would be considered in public.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

7 OFSTED Monitoring Visit

Julie Mepham advised the Board that OFSTED completed their first monitoring visit at the end of June and the outcome of that inspection had been received by letter.

Julie explained that the initial feedback from the visit was that OFSTED had definitely noticed improvements being made, recognising that although there was still some instability with the workforce in some areas, Kirklees in the main now had a dedicated and positive workforce and management oversight was apparent. There were no children found to be unsafe and although the changes being implemented had not yet impacted on outcomes, the changes were apparent and the improvement journey was recognised.

Julie advised that the next visit would be in September and at this visit, the Care Leavers Service and the Looked After Children's Service would be the focus.

RESOLVED -

That:

- (1) the update be received and noted and;
- (2) that a further update on the next visit be scheduled to be received at the November meeting of the Board.

8 Civic Centre Drop-In Centre

Belinda Cashman attended the meeting along with 3 young care leavers to update the Board on the development of the drop-in centre in Huddersfield Town Centre. Belinda provided the Board with an overview of the planned layout for the centre and advised of all of the facilities that will be in place.

The young people explained that they were really excited about their involvement in the development of the centre and appreciated the opportunity to influence the proposals. They explained that the centre was required to be much more than a drop in centre and that young people were committed to providing training and employment opportunities within the centre.

Julie explained that following recommendations from young people, officers were speaking with HR regarding the possibility of business/admin traineeships for care experienced young people to enable them to staff the reception of the centre. The

peer mentoring service would also be situated within one of the rooms within the centre. She explained that they hoped to coordinate a launch event in September and advised that the Board would receive further details of this closer to the time.

RESOLVED -

That the update be received and noted with thanks to the young people for attending and contributing to the meeting.

9 Service Plan Update

The Board considered a report which updated the Board on the current developments in the Corporate Parenting Service and the plans for the future of the service.

Julie clarified that the focus of the recent strike action had been in relation to workloads across the service. She explained that workloads in the Looked After Children, Fostering and Care Leavers teams were all low in comparison to national averages. However, she explained that workloads with the Assessment and Intervention team were high and improvements to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub were currently being piloted in the hope of helping to remedy the high workloads.

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

In relation to service plans for each of these teams, plans are in place and are reviewed and updated monthly by the service managers, with all updates being fed into the Improvement Plan.

Julie Mephram advised that assessments of 20 foster carers were currently underway and the service were hopeful of a net increase of approximately 15 new carers as a result of this. She explained that the service had a proposed recruitment target of 21 net carers each year so felt confident that the service would reach this target.

Pathway planning training had continued to be rolled out across the Looked After Children and Leaving Care service, with the focus of this training being on an improvement in the quality of plans. Julie advised that at the time of the update, 90% of plans were on the system, explaining that this was positive for young people as plans now reflected their involvement and voice. She also advised that the number of care plans had improved significantly as has the number of up to date assessments for every child. A compliance clinic had been arranged to maintain the standards now reached by the service.

RESOLVED -

That the content of the report be noted.

10 Performance Report

The Board considered a report providing an end of year summary with an overview of all the agreed indicators that monitor performance relevant to the Corporate Parenting Board.

The current issues were highlighted as being:

- a slight rise in residential placements since May 2016 (advised as relating to 2 children);
- lower number of children in care (currently 690, was 699 in March 2017);
- lower number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home than in April 2017 but still way above target;
- above target for placement stability within a year;
- a decrease in placement stability within two years;
- a rising number of social worker changes;
- IRO visits and reviews were under performing in a few different areas;
- a similar trend of a high number of Looked After Children going missing more than once in a month continues to occur;
- attainment, attendance and persistence absence continues to cause concerns;
- dental checks have reduced from figures provided in March 2017.

The improvements were highlighted as being:

- children entering care by placement – percentage in fostering has increased from 58% in May 2016 to 71% currently;
- children entering care by placement within and outside the LA Boundary – in April 2017, 78% were placed within Kirklees and 21.4% outside – slight drop from March 2017 but improvement from May 2016 when 69.2% were placed within Kirklees and 30.8% outside;
- children leaving care with a positive outcome improved to 100% in April 2017;
- a reduction in placement movements from 48 in March 2017 to 19 in April 2017;
- health assessments being up to date and initial assessment completed on time had both increased when compared to figures provided in March 2017;
- Looked After Children convictions had reduced.

RESOLVED -

That:

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) the comparison figures for the previous 12 months be included where relevant in future reports;
- (3) a report detailing recent “Missing” statistics and work ongoing within the service, as presented to a recent CSE Panel, be included on the next agenda of the Board.

11 Fostering Agency Report

The Board considered a report advising that the service had just reported the Fostering data set for 2017 to OFSTED. Rob Finney explained that he had since met with the performance team and the Liquid logic teams to ensure that the systems built for the future enable efficient reporting as the data gathering was labour intensive.

The data advised that as of 31st march 2017, there were:

- 198 fostering households and
- 262 fostered children.

The report advised that there were some very complex young people in the service and that whilst the vast majority of young people enjoyed very settled placements, a number of young people were considered to be at risk of CSE or had multiple missing episodes. Rob further advised that the numbers could be slightly misleading and explained that, for example, the same child went missing 24 times. However, no young people in placements were considered to have actually experienced CSE whilst in placement. For example, one young person was missing 24 times.

Rob further expanded on the increase in potential foster carers currently undergoing the assessment process and explained that the increase was due to the fact that the team were managing enquiries better by replicating some private sector ways of working. He advised that the service have previously been and are currently working to a deficit model in relation to fostering placements. Because of this, the number of independent sector placements was high however he hoped to half this number over the next three years through utilising internal placements effectively.

Rob also advised that a key focus for the team was the implementation of emergency foster carers and CSE super foster carers. He explained that there is a national shortage of foster carers for teenagers and that work around the voice of the young person and involving young people in pre-assessment training was being undertaken to try to combat this shortage. He also advised that the Placement Support Team had been in place for just under a year and this team was a key component in delivering successful outcomes for the team.

The report explained that the service was working on implementing a quality assurance framework within fostering including good quality data analysis around compliance; file audits, direct observations of practice and analysis of systems and processes.

RESOLVED -

That the content of the report be noted.

12 Complaints & Compliments Annual Report

The Board considered a report providing information on Compliments, Representations and Complaints received by Kirklees Directorate for Children and

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Adults Service between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017. It was explained that it was a requirement in the Improvement Plan for the Corporate Parenting Board to have been presented with a copy of the Complaints & Compliments Annual Report.

Yasmin Mughal outlined the key points in the report, explaining that there had been a significant increase in the number of complaints received but that the majority of these complaints had been resolved at Stage One of the process.

Cllr Marchington questioned whether the nature of complaints had altered and also asked how the service incorporated the complaints process into training for the service. Yasmin explained that the nature of complaints had not changed. She also advised that if a number of complaints of a similar nature were received, this would be flagged up with the relevant service manager.

Yasmin also pointed out that the team had sometimes struggled with meeting response timescales but advised that this tended to be due to the complexity of the complaint.

RESOLVED -

That the Board considered the content of the report and acknowledged the information on Compliments, Representations and Complaints received by Kirklees Directorate for Children and Adults Service between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017.

13 Kirklees Independent Reviewing Officers' Annual Report

The Board considered a report providing information on the contribution of Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) to quality assurance and improving services for children in care for the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. It was explained that it was a requirement under the Care Planning, Placement and Care Review (England) Regulations 2010 that the IRO Manager produce an annual report for scrutiny by the Corporate Parenting Board.

Kerrie Scraton outlined the key points in the report, explaining that it had been a busy year, with the numbers of both Looked After Children and children at risk still high. She explained that there were currently 6 vacancies within the team that had added pressure to the team but this would hopefully be resolved in the near future.

Kerrie explained that the focus for this year was to drive the standards forward for the service. The Chair advised that the issue of decision making not being taken in a timely manner was a big concern for the Board. Kerrie advised that this area was a focus for the team and developments were underway to fix the system.

RESOLVED -

That the Board considered the content of the report and acknowledged the contribution of Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) to quality assurance and improving services for children in care for the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

14 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

The Board considered its agenda plan for future meetings and noted the scheduled items for the next meeting.

RESOLVED -

That the agenda items for the next meeting of the Board be noted and agreed.

15 Dates of Future Meetings

The Board noted the dates of the future meetings of the Board for the 2017/18 municipal year.

RESOLVED –

That the next meeting of the Board be held on Monday 18 September 2017 at 10am.