

Contact Officer: Alaina McGlade

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 18th September 2017

Present: Councillor Karen Allison (Chair)
Councillor Fazila Fadia
Councillor Gemma Wilson
Elaine McShane, Head of Children's Social Work
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher
Kerrie Scraton, Interim Senior Manager – Safeguarding Assurance
Scott Deacon, Participation Officer

Apologies: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Jo-Anne Sanders, Interim Service Director for Early Help and Learning
Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting

In Attendance: Cllr Masood Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

1 Appointment of Chair

In the absence of Councillor Erin Hill, the Board appointed Councillor Karen Allison as Chair for this meeting only.

2 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Erin Hill and Andrew Marchington, Jo-Anne Sanders, Interim Service Director for Early Help and Learning and Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 17 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

4 Interests

There were no interests declared.

5 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.

6 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

7 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

8 Annual Report

The Board considered a draft version of the 2016-17 Corporate Parenting Annual Report which provided an overview of the the service had achieved over the year and outlined the priorities for the 2017-18 year.

They were advised that the priorities for the forthcoming year were:

- Education
- Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers - Sufficiency
- Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum
- Drop in Centre – No.11

The Board was advised that sufficiency was a key focus for the service and that it was important that children were placed through choice rather than availability. It was explained that there would also be review of external placements to consider the suitability of the placement and whether the outcomes relevant to the particular child are being met. It was further explained that the stability index would be a key focus when looking at improving sufficiency and that the impact upon educational outcomes would also be considered when considering future improvements.

The Board recognised the importance of sufficiency and the impact reduced stability can have on the outcomes for children. The Board highlighted that this is a key consideration for the Board and requested that a specific meeting of the Board be arranged to solely focus on the way in which the stability index is to be applied within of Corporate Parenting service.

The Board recognised the importance of the new drop in centre and the role this would play in broadening relationships with Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The Board requested that specific quotes from young people should be included within the report to incorporate the voice of the child.

RESOLVED - That the Board approved the format of the Annual Report subject to the inclusion of the following:

1. a clear explanation of the outcomes required to be achieved by the service over the next 12 months and how these will be measured;

2. inclusion of the Young People's voice within the report by way of specific narrative being included under relevant headings.

9 Missing Statistics Progress Report

The Board was presented with a report that updated the Panel on progress made in relation to the pilot on "Missing" figures in Kirklees.

It was explained that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing were both features of the defined plan that was in place to meet the recommendations identified in the Improvement Plan. It was advised that work was continuing to take place to identify the future vision for the team.

Cllr Ahmed explained that this issue had previously been considered by the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel. It was explained that Missing episodes increased the vulnerability of young people and that it was important to keep an oversight of any patterns that may emerge. The Board acknowledged that LAC were tracked well through their involvement with Social Services but questioned whether the same interaction was available to children outside of the care system.

The Board also noted the potential for duplication of information sharing across the governance structures within Children's Services and requested that options be brought back to the Board to improve cohesion and communication between the structures.

RESOLVED - That:

1. the Board recommends the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel to request detailed statistics on Missing figures for both children in care and children not currently known to the care system so that the Panel can be assured that the correct recording procedures are in place to ensure the appropriate support packages are provided;
2. the Board requests officers to consider the governance structure across children's services and identify options to effectively coordinate information and knowledge between the boards.

10 Performance Report

The Board considered a report providing 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;
- children entering care by placement outside of the Local Authority boundary;
- placement type and provider: placed for Adoption;
- children subject to a care order and placed at home;
- duration of stay at home under a care order;
- children who cease to be looked after;
- child participation in reviews;

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- Looked After Children visits within statutory timescale – visited in last six weeks;
- Missing Looked After Children – having more than one Missing episode per month;
- attainment of Looked After Children Key Stage 2 - Reading;
- attendance and persistent absence;
- pupils not in full time educational provision with reasons;
- number of young people who have been looked after continually for 12 months or more, aged between 10 and 17, who have offended and received a substantive outcome;
- Care Leavers in employment, education and training;
- number of Care Leavers with a pathway plan;
- number of children placed in their adoptive placements;
- initial contacts – foster carers;
- fostering approvals;
- foster placements split – family and friends placements and independent fostering agency placements;
- caseload.

The improvements were highlighted as being:

- children entering care - placement 20 miles or more from home;
- children in care – numbers in care per 10,000 of age 0-17;
- children who cease to be looked after by reason – positive outcome and other outcome;
- placement stability within year – Looked After Children with three or more placement moves;
- placement stability within 2 years;
- placement movement reasons;
- number of social worker changes;
- Looked After Children reviews within statutory timescale;
- Looked After Children visits within statutory timescale – visited in line with Practice Standards;
- Number of Independent Reviewing Officer visits held in the month;
- Independent Reviewing Officer visits held within timescale;
- Missing Looked After Children – having at least one Missing episode per month;
- Independent return interviews for Looked After Children offered within 72 hours of the child being located;
- attainment of Looked After Children Key Stage 2 – Writing and Maths;
- Personal Education Plans up to date;
- initial Personal Education Plans completed within 20 working days of a child coming into care;
- health assessments within the last 12 months;
- number of Looked After Children offered and refused substance misuse intervention within the last 12 months;
- initial health assessments completed on time;
- Care Leavers;
- children in care aged between 17 and 18 with an allocated personal advisor;
- Local Authority in touch with Care Leavers;

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- Care Leavers in suitable accommodation;
- number of children waiting to be placed in adoptive placements;
- number of adopters approved by Kirklees Council during a 12 month rolling period;
- adopter initial enquiries;
- completion rate of adopter process from initial enquiry to approval on a rolling 12 month basis;
- foster placements split – in-house placements;
- agency staff – service level.

The Board highlighted their concerns regarding the significant amount of information provided in the report and requested that the report be split into themes to enable smaller, more concise reports to be considered by the Board. The Board felt that this would ensure that all of the information provided to the Board would be considered fully.

RESOLVED - That:

1. the content of the report be noted;
2. the performance data within the report be specific to the theme covered at each meeting to enable a concise report to be provided and considered by the Board.

11 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

RESOLVED – That:

1. the content of the report be noted;
2. the agenda plan format be re-formatted to include an outcome delivery column;
3. themes be identified within the agenda plan for each meeting.

12 Dates of Future Meetings

The Board considered the schedule of future meeting dates.

RESOLVED - That the date of future meetings be noted.