

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**Monday 13th November 2017**

Present: Councillor Erin Hill (Chair)  
Councillor Fazila Loonat  
Councillor John Lawson (for Cllr Andrew Marchington)  
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher  
John Walsh, Service Manager (Safeguarding Services)  
Jo-Anne Sanders, Interim Service Director for Early Help and Learning  
Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting  
Martin Green, Head of Localities Officer (Children and Families)

In Attendance: Belinda Cashman, Interim Service Manager (Leaving Care Service)  
Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Apologies: Councillor Karen Allison  
Councillor Andrew Marchington  
Tom Brailsford, Head of Joint Commissioning  
Scott Deacon, Participation Officer (Commissioning and Health Partnerships)

**1 Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Andrew Marchington, Councillor Karen Allison and Tom Brailsford.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 18 September 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

There were no interests declared.

**4 Admission of the Public**

The Panel considered the exclusion of the public and determined that agenda items 1 to 13 be considered in public session and that agenda item 14 be held in private.

**5 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

No questions were received.

**7 Drop-in Centre Tour**

The Board undertook a tour of the No 11 Drop-in facility for Looked after children carried out by Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting.

Julie Mepham highlighted the following areas to the Board during the tour:-

- The facility had opened in October 2017 and was open Monday to Friday. The Council was looking into the possibility of opening the facility one evening per week and a day at weekends;
- The facility had been officially opened by Robert Goodwill, MP and Minister for the State on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017;
- Peer Mentors would be available for young people to talk to and would wear an official hoodie to inform other young people who they were;
- Up to 16-17 young people could visited the facility on a given day;
- Facilities at the centre included a kitchen to cook meals and wash clothes, pcs and laptops, private rooms with windows screened out and a toilet and shower room;
- The Board was advised that a food bank was available which was monitored to pick up any issues and to give appropriate support;
- Christmas bags had been donated from supermarkets last year for young people who were on their own and the facility were hoping for similar donations for 2017;
- The Centre was hoping to get facilities and resources for parents of children;
- A Christmas dinner event will be held during December.

Julie Mepham advised the Board that the LBT Youth Group currently held their meetings at the Centre, but that officers were currently considering how best the space at the Centre should be managed.

**RESOLVED** - The Board thanked Julie Mepham for the tour of the new drop-in Centre and thanked officers at the Centre for their hospitality.

**8 Ofsted update**

The Board considered a verbal update following the most recent monitoring visit by Ofsted.

Elaine McShane advised the Board that officers were currently awaiting the formal letter from Ofsted following the recent monitoring visit held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The Board was advised that Ofsted had confirmed that the electronic system within Children's Services had showed evidence of management oversight, but that this was not consistent.

Elaine McShane informed the Board that Ofsted had advised that they had not seen as much progress as they would have liked since the last monitoring visit held 12 months ago. The Board was advised, however, that Ofsted had acknowledged the new partnership between Kirklees and Leeds had only recently been established and was still embedding.

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The Board was advised that Ofsted had not yet confirmed when their next monitoring visit would be. Elaine McShane advised the Board that the letter from Ofsted would be available for public view once it had been published.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the update on the recent Ofsted Monitoring visit be noted.
- (2) That the Board receive a further update once the formal feedback on the monitoring visit held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November had been received from Ofsted.

### **9 Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers**

The Board considered a report advising on the Council's current policy in regards to the exemption of care leavers paying council tax and welcomed Belinda Cashman, Interim Service Manager for the Leaving Care Service, to the meeting.

Cllr Hill advised the Board that a motion would be put to the next Council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 on the issue of Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years and Council Tax exemption.

Belinda Cashman advised the Board that the current policy was discretionary and was not open to all care leavers. The Board was informed that the Department of Education was currently consulting on this piece of legislation and whether this would mean that the service just continued for young people, was discretionary or focused on task centre issues. Belinda Cashman advised the Board that the Children's Society Report of 2016 had called for Local Authorities to make care leavers exempt from Council tax up to the age of 25.

The following issues were raised by the Board:-

- What are the numbers of who was exempt and why?
- Were any care leavers paying for council tax when they should not be?
- How many care leavers were living in Kirklees and out of the area post 18, of those how many were exempt and what was the Council doing to support them?
- Which other Local Authorities in the region adopted this policy?

The Board supported the officer recommendation to recommend to Cabinet the introduction of a council tax exemption for all care leavers up to the age of 25 and agreed to reconsider the issue at the Board once further information had been provided on the matters raised and highlighted above.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Board noted the report on Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers and thanked Belinda Cashman for attending the meeting.
- (2) That the Board receive further information on the numbers of those young people who were exempt, lived within Kirklees and out of area, including the reasons for exemption.

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- (3) That the Board receive further information on which other Local Authorities in the region did not use this policy.

### 10 Peer Mentoring Delivery

The Board considered a verbal update relating to the Peer Mentoring Scheme for care leavers.

Belinda Cashman highlighted the following key issues:-

- 8 young people had expressed an interest to become Peer Mentors;
- training was being rolled out to 4 young people and would be completed shortly;
- peer mentors would initially be based at the drop-in facility, but would visit residential units where there were concerns;
- the Peer Mentor role would be to help young people to think through their decisions;
- there had been interest from other young people about becoming a Peer Mentor;
- opportunities would be available for the Peer Mentors to get involved in other areas of work;
- Officers were looking to arrange some more training for Peer Mentors early in 2018.

Belinda Cashman advised the Board that there was scope for 2 Peer Mentor apprenticeships at the drop-in facility. Julie Mephram advised that a proposal had been written on the 2 apprenticeships and was currently being considered.

The Board had a discussion about the apprenticeship initiative and approach within Kirklees and agreed that it would be preferable for jobs to be available for young people to go to once their apprenticeships had come to an end.

The Board agreed to ask the Peer Mentors to come to a future meeting to feedback on progress of their role.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Board noted the report on Peer Mentoring Delivery and thanked Belinda Cashman for the update.
- (2) That the Board receive feedback on progress at a future meeting of the Board from the Peer Mentors – date to be determined.

### 11 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan

The Board agreed to consider its agenda plan for future meetings at the next meeting in January 2018.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Board noted items for future meetings and that the Governance Officer update the Agenda Plan accordingly.

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- (2) That the Board receive an update on the Regional Adoption Work at the January meeting.
- (3) That the Board receive a revised Agenda Plan for consideration at the January meeting.

### **12 Dates of Future Meetings**

The Board considered the schedule of future meeting dates for the 2017/18 municipal year.

**RESOLVED** - That the date of future meetings be noted as follows:

- Monday 22 January 2018, 10am
- Monday 12 March 2018, 10am
- Monday 30 April 2018, 10am

### **13 Exclusion of the Public**

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

### **14 Performance Report**

The Board received exempt information in relation to Agenda Item 14. The Board gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the consideration of Agenda Item 14.

**RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the Board noted the Performance Report and thanked Board Members for their contributions.
- (2) That the Board consider the Head Teacher's report showing the data for 2017 Education Outcomes at their January meeting.