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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Present:** Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)  
Councillors Allison, Bellamy  
Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting  
Melanie Tiernan, Service Manager (Children and Families)  
Martin Green, Head of Localities Offer (Children and Families)  
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Head Teacher  
Sanna Mahmood, Care Leavers Advocate  
Ophelia Rix, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance  
Colleen Kenworthy, Kirklees Fostering Network  
Barry Lockwood, Kirklees Fostering Network  
Tom Brailsford, Head of Joint Commissioning (Children's)  
Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children  
Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance and Democratic  
Engagement Officer

**In attendance:** Andy Quinlan, Acting Service Manager (Fostering)  
Sara Miles, Service Manager (Children and Families)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Lawson, Loonat, Elaine Mc Shane and Keith Fielding

#### **1 Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Lawson, Loonat, Elaine Mc Shane and Keith Fielding.

#### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Barry Lockwood advised the Board that he had given comments on the revised Foster Care Handbook but had not received feedback. The Board noted that a meeting was taking place shortly where this would be addressed.

A number of Board Members who were elected members advised that they had not seen any information relating to the Independent Visitors Scheme and agreed that the scheme should be promoted to elected members as soon as possible so that they could help promote the scheme in order to encourage the recruitment of more volunteers.

Steve Comb advised the Board that the Care Leavers Local Offer had now been renamed to "Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers" and that details of the launch would be circulated to members of the Board when available.

Councillor Kendrick advised the Board that she would shortly be meeting with KAL to discuss the proposal for reduced costs for care leavers to access leisure facilities and agreed to report back to the Board on any developments. Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children and Care Leavers

advised the Board that provision was also being made by KAL for reduced rates at leisure facilities for children and young people with mental health issues. Colleen Kenworthy advised the Board that there should be provision for reduced rates at leisure facilities for all looked after children, not just care leavers and Councillor Kendrick agreed to pick this up with KAL.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be approved as a correct record.
2. The Board agreed that the Independent Visitors Scheme should be further promoted to elected members to reach a wider audience and so that they could help to promote the scheme.
3. That the Board receive details of the launch of the Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers when appropriate.
4. That the Chair of the Board, Cllr Kendrick, meet with KAL to discuss a proposal for reduced costs for looked after children and care leavers to access leisure facilities.

**3 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4 Admission of the public**

All items were considered in public session.

**5 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

No questions were asked.

**7 Ofsted and Improvement Board update**

The Board considered a verbal update on Ofsted and the Improvement Board presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting.

Steve Comb highlighted the following key issues:-

- The Improvement Board meetings were held on a regular basis and were looking at performance across the Children's Service;
- Ofsted Monitoring visit was scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December and they would be focussing on the Duty and Advice Assessment Service;
- Elm Grove Children's Home had received a positive Ofsted report and overall the experience for children and young people at the home was considered by Ofsted to be outstanding.

The Board agreed that staff at Elm Grove Children's Home should be thanked for all their hard work and commitment to making improvements for children and young people at the home.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the verbal update on key issues from Ofsted and the Improvement Board be noted.

2. That the staff at Elm Grove Children's Home be thanked for their hard work and commitment in making the improvements to the home and the experience for children and young people.

## **8. Performance Monitoring Update**

The Board considered a summary report outlining key performance data and highlights for children in care and care leavers up to September 2018, presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting and Janet Tolley, Virtual Head Teacher.

In response to a question from the Board regarding the slight decrease in September of the number of young people in suitable accommodation, Steve Comb explained that there might be some young people who had unfortunately lost their tenancy due to personal circumstances and that there were also young people in the youth offending system for various reasons. Steve Comb further explained that officers had a vested interest to make sure that young people were tenancy ready and did all they could to engage with young people in helping them to plan and prepare for a tenancy. The Board were informed that the Leaving Care Team maintained strong links with the key tenancy providers such as Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and Fusion Housing.

In response to a question from the Board relating to the fact that some young people could end up in a tenancy in an area that was not suitable for them, Steve Comb explained that as part of the Kirklees Care Leavers Commitment, KNH would always try and place a young person where they wanted to live, however, if the young person lost the tenancy then it could affect the options available in terms of what alternative accommodation could be offered. Cllr Alison agreed to pass details onto Steve Comb of some young people in her ward who were living in accommodation that was unsuitable for them.

In response to a question from the Board regarding the decrease in August of the number of young people being reviewed within statutory timescales, Steve Comb advised that sometimes the young person and/or the carer felt that an alternative placement was needed or preferred to undertake reviews out of school time, for example, during school holidays and that this would affect the data.

In response to a question from the Board asking whether the Placement Support Team took school stability for the young person into account, Steve Comb explained that the service looked at the young person as a whole and would take every possible aspect into account, including school stability. Steve Comb further explained that the young person's carer would also contribute information relating to the young person which would also be taken into account. Janet Tolley advised the Board that the virtual school would always try and make sure that the young person could stay in the same school, but that further work was being undertaken to improve this area. The Board was informed that permanent exclusions were avoided if at all possible and that the virtual school worked jointly with the schools on ensuring that exclusions were an absolute last resort. Janet Tolley advised the Board that there had not been any permanent exclusions in Kirklees schools since the Virtual Head Teacher had been in post.

## **RESOLVED –**

1. That the updates on Performance within Children's Services be noted.

### **9. Annual report on the health of looked after children (April 2017 to March 2018)**

The Board considered an Annual Report on the health of looked after children covering the period April 2017 to March 2018, presented by Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children and Care Leavers. The report outlined the work that had taken place over the last year and provided assurance that the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were fulfilling their statutory responsibilities.

Gill Addy highlighted the following key issues:-

- Review of health assessment (RHA) process – it was not compulsory for young people to engage in the RHA process and efforts were being made to arrange the reviews at a time convenient for the young person to try and encourage attendance;
- Dental registration – if a young person was registered at a dentist and did not attend, then they could be removed from the register;
- Dental attendance – it was difficult to obtain information advising when a child had been to see a dentist so follow up with the carer would be undertaken in cases where it was showing the young person had not been to a dentist;
- Immunisations – The Team would follow up with the Social Worker or Carer where they could see that a child had not had an immunisation. The team were Actively targeting young people to ensure that meningitis immunisations were carried out when they had not taken place;
- Substance misuse – Health Practitioners were using a different form to record whether a child was dependent or not.

In response to a question by the Board relating to why a LAC nurse was representative at only 4 fostering panels per year, Gill Addy explained that lack of capacity within the team meant that a LAC nurse could not attend all the fostering panel meetings. Tom Brailsford further explained that a GP report would often be submitted to the Foster Panel as part of a child's case.

## **RESOLVED –**

1. That the Annual Report on the health of looked after children be noted and Gill Addy be thanked for her contributions.

### **10. CAMHS Local Transformation Plan 2018**

The Board considered the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan 2018 presented by Tom Brailsford, Head of Joint Commissioning (Children's).

Tom Brailsford advised the Board that the Transformation Plan was broken down into 5 themes, listed below:-

- Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention for the mental wellbeing of children and young people;
- Improving access to effective support – a system without tiers;
- Caring for the most vulnerable;
- To be accountable and transparent;

- Developing the workforce.

The Board was informed that the Transformation Plan would be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and they would be asked for comments and approval before the Plan was published.

In response to a question from the Board in relation to the implementation of Thrive Elaborated across the CAMHS provision, Tom Brailsford explained that children had in the past got 'stuck' in the system and this would eliminate the extra tiers of assessment.

In response to a question from the Board in connection to the increased access to prevention and treatment services for underrepresented groups and the large waiting lists, Tom Brailsford advised the Board that there was now a single point of access, that the waiting time was currently 29 weeks but that extra resources had been put in place to make improvements in this area.

Janet Tolley advised that some of the tier 2 services were funded by the virtual school project across the service to ensure that young people were in an emotionally fit state to be education ready.

The Board agreed to send additional comments on the Transformation Plan direct to Tom Brailsford.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the report on CAMHS Local Transformation Plan 2018 be noted.
2. That Board Members send any comments on the report direct to Tom Brailsford.

**11 CSE and Missing Provision – overview from April to October 2018**

The Board considered a report on the CSE and Missing Provision for April to October 2018 presented by Ophelia Rix, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance.

Ophelia Rix informed the Board that the Risk and Vulnerabilities Team was now established and were working closely with the Police. The Board was advised that the team currently had the following resources based with the team:-

- Police Officer;
- Drug and Alcohol Worker from BASE;
- Parent Liaison Officer which was funded by Kirklees but came from PACE and would strengthen the work needed with children suffering from CSE.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that the team were looking to arrange some briefing sessions with elected members early in the new year to raise awareness of CSE and Criminal Exploitation and the work around the county lines.

The Board welcomed more involvement by the Children's Service with PACE and Ophelia Rix advised that the Team needed to further develop its networks and extend to foster carers.

Ophelia Rix informed the Board that the Team were working with Licensing to on the night time economy and would be undertaking joint visits with the Police in 2019 to public houses, takeaways and hotels to develop and increase awareness on all areas of risk and vulnerabilities, including the county lines.

The Board agreed that the report helped to paint a picture of the current position and what was involved in the work of CSE and noted that the report had recently been shared with the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that officers were visiting Primary and Secondary schools to target all young people in order to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of CSE. The Board was informed that roadshows were being held within community hubs to raise awareness and understanding, for example, helping professionals in health centres and refuse collectors to know how to spot potential safeguarding issues and report them.

The Board agreed that elected members needed to be clear and informed on what was happening across Kirklees and within their own communities on CSE and Missing.

#### **RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the report on the CSE and Missing Provision for April to October 2018 and thanked Ophelia Rix for her contributions.
2. That officers continue to work with elected members to raise awareness of CSE and Missing and what was happening in communities across Kirklees.

## **12 Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers**

The Board considered a report on the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers presented by Andy Quinlan, Service Manager (Fostering).

Andy Quinlan advised the Board that there was a national shortage of foster carers which had led to a dependence on Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs). The Board noted that other authorities were struggling with recruitment and retention of foster carers and that Rotherham had recently been in the press regarding this issue. The Board was informed that since the appointment of the Service Manager for Fostering and Recruitment Manager, the recruitment process for foster carers had been revamped to look at all aspects of recruitment and retention of foster carers.

Andy Quinlan highlighted the key issues from the report, as follows:-

- events had been held or were planned in order to recruit more foster carers;
- Use of the Kirklees Placement Support Team to develop foster carers skills and assist with difficult placements and challenging behaviour, this was a resource that not all authorities had in place and was therefore something positive to highlight when recruiting foster carers;
- Joint meetings were being held between Head of Service, Service Manager (Fostering) and the Kirklees Fostering Network helpline representatives to address helpline issues.

Colleen Kenworthy advised the Board that she had been a foster carer for 10 years and that in her experience the numbers of foster carers had fluctuated during that time. Colleen Kenworth went on to explain that Kirklees was a good Local Authority to work for but that there were still improvements to be made to support to foster carers, but that it was improving. The Board noted that the Foster Carer Handbook was a helpful tool to foster carers.

Steve Comb informed the Board that a dialogue was ongoing between Kirklees, the Kirklees Fostering Network and foster carers to help improve outcomes for children.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the report on Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers be noted and that Andy Quinlan, Service Manager (Fostering) be thanked for his contributions.

**13 Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care**

The Board considered an Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for children in care presented by Yasmin Mughal and Helen Sanderson, Complaints and Represent Manager.

Yasmin Mughal highlighted the key points from the report, as follows:-

- Complaints resolved at Stage 1 for 2017-18 were down to 152 and each complainant raised more than one issue – this showed a reduction in complaints compared to the previous year due to a number of issues as outlined in the report including change in leadership and visibility of the Complaints Unit staff;
- The focus was now on resolution of the complaint rather than the complaints procedure;
- 50 complaints were received from Children in 2017-18 which demonstrated that young people were aware of and had access to the complaints procedure and did voice their concerns via the Children's Act Complaints Procedure;
- 100% of the complaints from children had been responded to within statutory timescales;
- Lessons and findings identified through complaints were followed up by Managers in staff supervision to inform individual learning and development;
- Training was being put together to help staff develop a better understanding of the issues raised in complaints and how well officers were responding to them, good examples would be shared across the service.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care be noted and that Yasmin Mughal, Complaints and Represent Manager and Sara Miles, Service Manager (Children and Families) be thanked for their contributions.

**14 Update report from Children in Care Council (CCIC) and Care Leavers Forum (CL Forum) and the Pledge**

The Board considered an update report from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum and the Pledge presented by Sanna Mahmood, Care Leavers Advocate and Melanie Tiernan, Service Manager (Children and Families).

Melanie Tiernan advised the Board that Colin Sloan, LAC Advocacy and Participation Officer, joined the Family Support and Child Protection team in October 2018 and was coordinating the work of Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum.

The Board was informed that both the CCIC and CL Forum now had equal membership numbers. Colleen Kenworthy agreed to mention the CCIC and CL Forum groups at the next meeting of the Teenage Support Group, so that they could have a voice which would help them to progress matters within the Local Authority. Ophelia Rix advised the Board that it was important to ascertain how to get the views of children and young people and how they could contribute to service development and a link needed to be made.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that action plans for the first 6 months of 2019 would be drawn up in the new year for the work of the CCIC and CL Forum.

The Board discussed access by looked after children and care leavers to leisure facilities and other events either free of charge or at a reduced cost. Sanna Mahmood advised the Board that she was working with various external organisations, eg football clubs and public transport companies to get tickets for events and services at a reduced rate. Sanna Mahmood further explained that the team would be arranging Christmas presents for care leavers and would be looking at arranging theatre tickets.

Colleen Callaghan informed the Board that Kirklees Fostering Network, as a charity, supported foster carers and would work together to provide resources and support for young mums and babies.

### **The Pledge**

The Board noted that The Pledge attached to the report had been produced in two formats, one suitable for younger children (7-11) and one for those who were older (12 plus). The Pledge had been launched via email communication from Senior Management and through various teams and copies would be given to all children and young people as well as foster carers and professionals.

### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the update report from Children in Care Council (CICC) and Care Leavers Forum (CL Forum) and the Pledge be noted.
1. That as part of the Council's commitment as a Corporate Parent, the Board consider how cultural activities taking place within Kirklees venues could be subsidised and offered to looked after children and care leavers.

## **16 Updates from Board Members on interaction with Services**

The Board considered verbal updates from Board Members on interaction with Services.

Councillor Kendrick gave a summary of events, visits and meetings she had recently attended, as follows:-

- Children's Rights Team
- Met with Ophelia Rix regarding auditing of cases;
- Care Leavers Awards Ceremony;
- National Children and Adult Services Conference on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018;
- Social Workers Conference on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018
- Personal Adviser (to Care Leavers) Team meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018;
- Emergency Duty Team meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the verbal updates from the Chair of the Board on interaction with Services be noted.

**15 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan for 2017/18 and looking forward to 2018/19**

The Board considered the Agenda Plan for the remainder of the 2018/19 Municipal year.

**RESOLVED -**

1. That the Agenda Plan for the Corporate Parenting Board during 2018/19 be noted.
2. That the additional agenda items be added to the agenda plan for the 2018/19 municipal year and amendments be made as agreed.
3. That the Governance Officer be authorised to liaise with officers on agreed actions.

**16 Dates of Future Meetings**

That the Board noted the future meeting dates of the Board during the 2018/19 municipal year:

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019, 10.30 am
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 10 am
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 10.30 am
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 10.30 am