

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 11th March 2019

Present: Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Fazila Loonat
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Gill Addy Designated Nurse for Looked after Children/Care Leavers
Steve Comb Head of Corporate Parenting (Safeguarding)
Martin Green Head of Localities Offer (Children and Families)
Colleen Kenworthy Kirklees Fostering Network
Barry Lockwood Kirklees Fostering Network
Mel Meggs Director for Children's Services
Ophelia Rix Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Melanie Tiernan Service Manager, Family Support and Child Protection

In attendance: Sara Hions, Virtual School Team Manager
Stephen Bonnell, Policy and Partnerships Officer

Apologies: Councillor Cahal Burke
Christine Bennett Practice Improvement Lead (Children's Services)
Julie Bragg Service Manager (Children and Families)
Tom Brailsford Head of Joint Commissioning
Keith Fielding Kirklees Fostering Network
Charlotte Jackson Improvement Partner (Children's Services)
Jo-Anne Sanders Service Director for Learning and Early Support
Janet Tolley Virtual School Headteacher

1 Membership of the Board/Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies had been received from Cllr Burke, Christine Bennett, Charlotte Jackson, Jo-Anne Sanders, Janet Tolley, Tom Brailsford, Julie Bragg and Keith Fielding.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th February 2019.

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Cllr Kendrick referred to information tabled at the meeting regarding Fostering Fortnight which had been requested at a previous Board meeting. The Board noted that they were welcome to attend any of the events and agreed to receive diary invites.

Colleen Kenworthy and Barry Lockwood advised that they were not aware of the events during Fostering Fortnight and agreed to share the information via the Kirklees Fostering Network.

The Board noted that the report on persistent absentees from school would be provided to the Board in April 2019.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that she would send the Voice of the Child Development Plan to the Group Business Managers via the Governance Officer and ask them to share the information within their political groups and offer to attend if required.

RESOLVED -

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 14th February 2019 were agreed as a correct record.
2. The Board agreed that outlook appointment invites be sent to all Board Members for the events being held during Fostering Fortnight 13th to 26th May 2019.
3. That the Voice of the Child Development Plan be shared with the political groups.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that all agenda items would be held in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received from members of the public.

7 Ofsted and Improvement Board update

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

Steve Comb advised the Board that the Service were currently preparing for the Ofsted Inspection expected to take place in the near future and had recently presented the draft of the Corporate Parenting Strategy to the Improvement Board.

RESOLVED -

1. The Board noted the update on Ofsted and Improvement Board and thanked Steve Comb for his contributions.

8 Children's Performance Highlights update (March 2019)

The Board considered an update giving key highlights on Performance Monitoring data for the Children's Service in March 2019, presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting, Gill Addy (Designated Nurse for Looked after Children) and Sara Hions (Virtual School Team Manager).

Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked after Children highlighted the following key points:-

- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker children required an NHS number to be able to register with a dentist;
- Sickness within the team had delayed inputting of some data.

Steve Comb and Sara Hions highlighted the following key points:-

- Work was ongoing with the social work teams and the Virtual school team to improve PEP and initial PEP completion;
- All initial PEPs were completed within 10 working days and a priority was to put the child's education plan into place as soon as possible;
- The new drop-in facility for looked after children and care leavers would be launched in April 2019;
- 58% of care leavers were in education and employment or training;
- The Children's Service had a C&K Careers Advisor in the Leaving Care Service who had been involved in plans to upskill other officers on giving careers advice.

The Board agreed to consider data in future performance reports showing the numbers of care leavers aged 17 with a Personal Adviser.

The Board agreed that a deeper analysis was required of the 42% care leavers who were not in education employment or training, the reasons why and what their aspirations were.

In response to a statement from the Board regarding the importance of completing PEPs within the first 20 days, Sara Miles advised that whilst she did not have the data at the meeting, there was a rolling programme for children in care and communication between the Virtual School, Social Workers, School and Foster carers was documented. The Board agreed to consider information outlining what action was being taken to improve PEP completion timescales.

RESOLVED -

1. That the update on Performance within Children's Services be noted.
2. The Board agreed to consider information regarding action being taken to improve PEP completion timescales.
3. The Board agreed to consider data in future performance reports showing the numbers of care leavers aged 17 with a Personal Adviser.
4. The Board agreed to consider information giving a deeper analysis of the 42% care leavers who were not in education employment or training, the reasons why and what their aspirations were.
5. The Board agreed to consider information in future performance reports giving the reasons why 8% of young people did not have a pathway plan.

9 Corporate Parenting Strategy

The Board considered the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting and Stephen Bonnell, Policy and Partnerships Officer.

The Board was informed that the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy had been shared with the Improvement Board and Chair of Children's Scrutiny Panel for comments and that the final Strategy would be considered by Cabinet on the 16th April 2019.

The Board welcomed the comments from care leavers and looked after children which had been included in the Strategy.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that she would be meeting with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum shortly to discuss the Voice of the Child Development Plan and would then link this work to the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Board was informed that KAL cards were now available to all Care Leavers up to the age of 21 and KAL would like to see these promoted. The Board Members agreed that the availability of KAL cards to Care Leavers could be promoted via the Kirklees Fostering Network, No 11 drop-in facility and Personal Advisors. The Board agreed that it would be useful to capture the positives from Care Leavers on the use of the KAL cards.

The Board was informed that Kirklees was trying to arrange for free bus passes to be made available for care leavers up to the age of 21.

The Board agreed that the drop-in facilities for looked after children and care leavers should be further advertised and promoted and was informed that a plan of activity and future events would be developed.

The Board requested that the following changes be made to the Strategy:-

- That the font be updated so it was the same throughout the document;
- Up to date figures to be provided for number of care leavers in Kirklees in education, employment or training and suitable accommodation;
- Figures to be provided for keeping families together;
- Care and early support to be reflected in the key activities on page 12 of the Strategy;
- The key strategies on page 14 should make a link to employment and careers;
- Key stakeholders should include the Children and Young People's partnership Board;
- Need to describe Mental Health offer to care leavers on page 15 and make reference to KAL Cards;
- The Strategy should reflect the voice of the child.

The Board was informed that Mel Meggs, Director of Children's Services, had recently met with the Kirklees Fostering Network to discuss support for foster carers. Colleen Kenworthy advised the Board that Mel Meggs had asked the Kirklees

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Fostering Network to put together proposals on future plans, aspirations and funding requirements.

RESOLVED –

1. The Board noted the Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019-22 and thanked Steve Comb (Head of Corporate Parenting) and Stephen Bonnell (Policy and Partnerships Officer) for their contributions.
2. That the comments from the Board on the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019-22 be incorporated within the final version scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on the 16th April 2019.
3. The Board agreed that the KAL card which was now available for all care leavers should be promoted as widely as possible, for example through the Kirklees Fostering Network, No 11 drop in facility and Personal Advisors.
4. The Board agreed that it would be useful to capture the positives from Care Leavers on the use of the KAL cards and share this information at a future Board meeting.

10 Future focus of the Corporate Parenting Board and Agenda Plan 2018/19

The Board considered the future focus of the Corporate Parenting Board and agenda plan for the 2018/19 municipal year.

The Board put forward the following suggestions:-

- Role of elected members on the Board should be to raise the Corporate Parenting profile and voice of the child in other forums;
- Board Member Champions – some Members of the Board could go out into the service and meet teams where there might be issues or just to find out more about the service provision and report back to the Board;
- Cabinet Members could champion Corporate Parenting within their portfolios
- Strategic Directors and Cabinet Members could attend the Board to talk about their role on Corporate Parenting, what they were currently doing and what more that could be done;
- Open events could be arranged for foster carers at number 11 and the new drop-in facility opening shortly in Dewsbury;
- App for Care Leavers – need to understand what was required;
- Update from Kirklees Fostering Network – current work, what was working well and not working well;
- The Chair of the Board agreed to champion the take up of KAL Cards;
- The Board could commission a review of the 'staying put' policy which linked with recruitment of foster carers. An elected member from the Board and rep from KFN could work on this and bring a report back to the Board;
- Members of Board should all feedback on interaction with services at every meeting.

The Board agreed that meetings should be held by-monthly during the 2019/20 municipal year with agreed activity taking place in-between meetings.

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The Board noted that the Kirklees Fostering Network held drop-in sessions for parents and carers and agreed to receive details of future meetings.

RESOLVED –

1. The Board noted the report on the future focus and work programme of the Corporate Parenting Board and thanked Steve Comb for his contributions.
2. That an outline plan of the future work programme be shared with the Board at the beginning of the 2019/20 municipal year.
3. That the Board meet bi-monthly during the 2019/20 municipal year.
4. That Board Members who might agree to take forward specific pieces of work on behalf of the Board, would provide progress updates at future Board meetings.
5. The Board agreed to consider data from the Family Group Conferencing Team when it was available – date to be determined.
6. The Board noted that the Kirklees Fostering Network held drop-in sessions for parents and carers and agreed to receive details of future meetings.

11 Updates from Board Members on interaction with Services

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

Cllr Kendrick, Chair of the Board, gave a summary of events, visits and meetings she had recently attended, as follows:-

- Family Group Conferencing Team – Cllr Kendrick advised that she had been impressed by the results achieved by the Team and the difference that they had made and would share data with the Board when available;
- Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Board;

Colleen Kenworthy advised the Board that the Kirklees Fostering Network had a Teenager Support Group in place and that a representative from the Family Group Conferencing Team could meet with the Kirklees Fostering Network.

RESOLVED -

1. The Board noted the updates from Board Members on interaction with services.
2. The Board agreed that the Family Group Conferencing Team could attend the Kirklees Fostering Network.

12 Dates of Future Meetings

The Board noted the date of the next Board meeting in the 2018/19 municipal year.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Corporate Parenting Board would meet on the following date:-
Monday 15th April 2019, 10.30 am