

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

**Monday 15th April 2019**

Present:

- Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)
- Councillor Donna Bellamy
- Gill Addy - Designated Nurse for Looked after Children/Care Leavers
- Christine Bennett - Head of Service (Assessment and Intervention)
- Julie Bragg - Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)
- Tom Brailsford - Head of Joint Commissioning
- Steve Comb - Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)
- Martin Green - Head of Localities Offer (Children and Families)
- Charlotte Jackson - Head of Service (Assessment Intervention and Front Door)
- Barry Lockwood - Kirklees Fostering Network
- Mel Meggs - Director for Children's Services
- Ophelia Rix - Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
- Melanie Tiernan - Service Manager (Kirklees Looked after Children Independent Service – Children's Rights Team)
- Janet Tolley - Virtual School Headteacher

In attendance:

- Sara Miles
- Laura Counce

Apologies:

- Councillor Karen Allison
- Councillor Fazila Loonat
- Councillor John Lawson
- Jo-Anne Sanders

#### **1 Membership of the Board/Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies had been received from Cllrs Allison, Loonat and Lawson, Colleen Kenworthy and Jo-Anne Sanders.

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

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th March 2019.

The Board agreed to receive outlook appointments for the events being held during Fostering Fortnight.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that she had met with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum to share the Voice of the Child Development Plan and was hoping to bring the revised plan back to the next meeting of the Board.

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### RESOLVED -

- (1) That an amendment be made to the minutes on page 3, section 8 “The Children’s Service had a C&K Careers Advisor in the Leaving Care Service who would be involved in plans to upskill other officers on giving careers advice”.
- (2) The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 11th March 2019 were agreed as a correct record.
- (3) That the Board consider a revised version of the Voice of the Child Development Plan in June 2019.
- (4) The Board agreed to receive outlook appointment invites for the events to be held during Fostering Fortnight 13th to 26th May 2019.

### 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 **Review of Terms of Reference and Membership of the Board**

The Board reviewed its Terms of Reference and Membership prior to them being presented to Annual Council on the 22nd May 2019 for approval.

The Board noted that an additional term of reference had been added to confirm that it was a requirement of all Board Members to make enquiries or visit services and partners to assist in exploring the role of the Council as a Corporate Parent and report back to the Board. Members of the Board noted that contact could also be in the form of a telephone call or email.

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

### 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 children would be moved out of Orchard View whilst building works were undertaken at the home.

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

### 8 **Children's Performance Highlight Report (February 2019)**

The Board considered an update giving key highlights on Performance Monitoring data for the Children’s Service in February 2019, presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting, Gill Addy (Designated Nurse for Looked after Children) and Janet Tolley (Virtual School Head Teacher).

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A query was raised by the Kirklees Fostering Network relating to the amount of notice given for planned moves and that it could be 28 days before notice was received. The representative from the Kirklees Fostering Network agreed to contact Julie Bragg, the Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers) separately on this issue.

Gill Addy advised the Board that an Annual Health report would be submitted to the Board in the near future. The Board noted that liquid logic was not being updated with a status change on initial health assessments and Gill Addy advised that her team were working hard to update the status changes so that the required actions would be triggered. Ophelia Rix and Gill Addy agreed to meet separately to discuss how the liquid logic issues could be resolved.

The following key points were highlighted:-

- 7 breaches of in-house health assessments in February had now been resolved and Gill Addy advised that the narrative would be updated for future reports;
- Children's Services was liaising with colleagues in One Adoption with regard to co-locating some officers within Kirklees to be based within the Children's Services Teams;
- Janet Tolley advised the Board that the DFA statistics had been released and a report on educational outcomes from 2018 would be shared with the Board at the next meeting;
- The Virtual Team were looking at moving to termly PEP completion and completing initial PEPs in 10 days;
- The opening of the new drop-in facility in Dewsbury had been slightly delayed due to building work, but the launch was planned for mid-July 2019 and all Members of the Board would be invited;
- A Personal Advisor was now dedicated to working with care leavers aged 17 and 4 months to help develop timely transitions with young people.

In answer to a question from the Board relating to Pathway Plans that had decreased, Julie Bragg advised that the data was not yet accurate due to the introduction of liquid logic, but that the Board should start to see this improving in future reports.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that business process maps were being looked at in terms of making sure that liquid logic was working correctly and not impacting on data. The Board agreed that future reports should reflect where data was not accurate due to technical difficulties with liquid logic.

In response to a question relating to whether young people had to attend training prior to taking on a tenancy, Julie Bragg advised that it was a requirement that young people attended the training in order to qualify for the priority banding for accommodation. Julie Bragg further explained that colleagues from Children's Services were liaising with officers from Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing to engage with young people to encourage them to attend the training.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) The Board noted the Children's Performance Highlight Report (February 2019) and thanked Steve Comb, Janet Tolley and Gill Addy for their contributions.
- (2) That officers consider and address any technical queries relating to liquid logic and the recording of data and that any issues were highlighted in future reports to the Board.
- (3) That future reports include information outlining what action has been taken to resolve any breaches relating to Review health assessments.
- (4) That the Board consider the Department for Education LAC outcomes data 2018 SFR analysis at the next meeting in June 2019.
- (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 Overview of number of children in Care**

The Board considered an overview of the number of children in care (snapshot) including age profile presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency) and Julie Bragg Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers).

Steve Comb advised the Board that information relating to statistical neighbours had been included within the report.

The Board was informed that the data showed a slight decrease in children placed outside of Kirklees District and the Service continued to be pro-active in recruiting new foster carers for children within the district. Steve Comb also confirmed that a review was being undertaken of all children placed in residential placements out of area.

**RESOLVED** - The Board noted the report on Number and age of Children in Care and thanked Steve Comb and Julie Bragg for their contributions.

**10 Update on the number of Children in Care not in full time education**

The Board considered a report on the number of children in care not in full time education or have attendance of less than 90% presented by Janet Tolley, Virtual School Head Teacher.

The Board agreed to consider a future report giving an update on the looked after children who had achieved 80-90% attendance.

The Board agreed that school moves were a big issue for looked after children and raised concerns regarding the number of school moves due to placement changes. Mel Meggs advised that the statutory guide now required any school moves for year 10 and 11 had to be signed off by the Service Director for Learning and Early Support.

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The Board was informed that carers should be supported to help them to keep children within their current schools wherever possible.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (1) The Board noted the report on the number of children and young people in care not in full time education or had attendance of less than 90% and thanked Janet Tolley for her contributions.
- (2) That the Board consider a future progress update on the looked after children who had achieved 80-90% attendance.

### **11 Risk and Vulnerability progress report**

The Board considered a progress report on Risk and Vulnerability presented by Ophelia Rix, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that the Risk and Vulnerability Team was formed in November 2018. A new Team Manager had just been appointed. The team were currently working with 38 young people, 10 of which were looked after.

The Board noted the next steps and timelines highlighted within the report.

The Board was informed that the approach on Risk and Vulnerabilities was going from strength to strength and that evaluation forms were collected from children and young people to make sure that the voice of the child was being heard and lessons learnt.

The Board was encouraged to see that the Team were addressing the concerns of young people who were overwhelmed with the amount of service intervention and appointments.

Sara Miles advised the Board that work was ongoing to improve data sharing with communities and partners, eg Police, to better understand the mapping of where children went when they go missing. Mel Meggs informed the Board that a different approach was required for data sharing to ensure that the right connections were made.

In response to a question from the Board relating to children who were leaving the care system and whether anything was being done to learn from their experiences, Sara Miles advised that the service did try to capture the views of the child, parent or carer before they exited care.

Ophelia Rix advised that conversations were ongoing with health partners as to how the health support to young people could be strengthened.

**RESOLVED -** The Board noted the report on Risk and Vulnerabilities and thanked Sara Miles and Ophelia Rix for their contributions.

**12 Annual Statement of Purpose for Registered Children's Homes**

The Board considered the annual Statement of Purpose for Registered Children's Homes presented by Claire Morgan, Children's Services (Disabled Children's Regulated Services) and Steve Comb.

Steve Comb advised that 4 children's homes in Kirklees were rated as good and 1 was outstanding. Claire Morgan advised the Board that if anything changed at a home, the Statement of Purpose would have to be updated and sent to Ofsted.

The Board agreed to consider regular progress updates from the Residential Managers of the Children's Homes on the improvements and actions being taken following Ofsted reports.

Claire Morgan advised the Board that if a child refused to go to school, the home would be judged for how they dealt with this. The Service was not being complacent and were making sure that the homes were doing their best to make sure children were educated and healthy and that the homes needed to be able to evidence this.

The Board agreed to consider a future report outlining what children's Homes in Kirklees would look like in the future.

Gill Addy recommended that the sexual health outreach workers needed to be added to the Statement of Purpose as one of the key partners.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) The Board noted the Annual report on the Statement of Purpose for registered children's Homes and thanked Claire Morgan and Steve Comb for their contributions.
- (2) That the Board consider regular progress updates from the Residential Managers of the children's homes on the improvements and actions being taken following Ofsted reports.
- (3) The Board agreed to consider a future report outlining what children's homes would look like in the future – date to be determined.
- (4) The Board agreed that Sexual Health Outreach should be added into the Statement of Purpose for Children's Homes as one of the key partners.

**13 Grandparents Special Guardianship**

The Board considered a report on Grandparents Special Guardianship regarding Kinship Connected written by One Adoption and presented by Julie Bragg, Head of Service (Children in Care and Care Leavers).

Julie Bragg advised the Board that 2 Grandparents Plus Project Workers had come into post on the 2nd October 2019 to provide support to special guardians across the 5 local authorities covered by One Adoption West Yorkshire. Kinship Connected had been commissioned for 18 months in West Yorkshire from October 2018 to March 2020.

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The Board noted the key themes arising from the support provided within Kirklees which were outlined within the report. Julie Bragg advised that special guardians were often not aware of what they could be entitled to.

Janet Tolley informed the Board that she often took calls from grandparents caring for children who were struggling financially and had no access to support due to their private care arrangements.

Julie Bragg agreed to invite the Board to future engagement events for Grandparents Plus.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) The Board noted the report on Grandparents Special Guardianship written by One Adoption West Yorkshire and thanked Julie Bragg (Kirklees) for her contributions.
- (2) That the Board be invited to any future engagement events for Grandparents Plus.

### **14 Corporate Parenting Board - proposed areas of focus and activity for 2019/20**

The Board considered the proposed areas of focus and activity for the Board during the 2019/20 municipal year and the draft agenda plan for 2019/20.

The Board noted the list of topic areas for Board Members to champion and agreed to consider again at the first meeting of the Board in the 2019/20 municipal year, when elected members on the Board had been agreed following Council AGM in May 2019. The Board noted that interaction with services could be in the form of a formal meeting with the service or partner or a telephone conversation.

The Board was informed that Strategic Directors had agreed to attend a meeting of the Board during the 2019/20 municipal year to talk about their role as a corporate parent.

The Board agreed to consider reports on the following areas during the 2019/20 municipal year:-

- Placing sibling groups (success in Kirklees) – September 2019;
- Commitment to Care Leavers – date to be confirmed.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) The Board agreed to interact with services on their role as the corporate parent and voice of the child and report back to each meeting of the Board. The Board noted that interaction with services could be in the form of a formal meeting with the service or partner or a telephone conversation.
- (2) The Board noted the list of topic areas for Board Members to champion and agreed to consider again at the first meeting of the Board in the 2019/20

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municipal year when elected members on the Board had been agreed following Council AGM in May 2019.

- (3) The Board noted that Strategic Directors had agreed to attend a future meeting of the Board in the 2019/20 municipal year to discuss their role as a corporate parent.
- (4) The Board noted that the Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health would attend an early meeting of the Board in the 2019/20 municipal year.
- (5) That the Board consider a report on placing sibling groups in September 2019.
- (6) That the Board consider a report regarding the commitment to care leavers – date to be determined.

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

The Board considered verbal updates from Board Members on interaction with Services as follows:-

- Steve Comb had met with foster carers to discuss how communications could be improved;
- Mel Meggs had been to tea with a number of foster carers and had met some children in a less formal environment.

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

- School Hub Heads;
- Three Board Workshops on Contextual Safeguarding;
- Conscious Youth and discussed work they were doing;
- Children in Care Council;
- A group supervision with the MST Team talking anonymously about some cases;
- Kirklees Fostering Network coffee morning.

**RESOLVED** - The Board noted the updates from Board Members on interaction with services.

### 16 **Dates of Future Meetings**

The Board noted the dates of the next Board meetings in the 2019/20 municipal year.

**RESOLVED** - The Board noted the provisional dates of meetings in the 2019/20 municipal year:-

- 19th June 2019, 10 am
- 28th August 2019, 10 am
- 23rd October 2019, 10 am



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- 13th December 2019, 10 am
- 10th February 2020, 10 am
- 9th April 2020, 10 am