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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Monday 30th April 2018

Present: Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)
Councillors Loonat, Marchington
Ophelia Rix, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Melanie Tiernan, Service Manager
Steve Comb, Interim Head of Corporate Parenting
Tom Brailsford, Head of Joint Commissioning

In attendance: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer
Joanna Pritchard (Observer)
Kevin Larkin, Radio Leeds
Laura Counce, Residential Service Manager

Apologies: Cllrs Hill, Allison and Watson
E Mc Shane, J Sanders, J Tolley and J Walsh

1 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hill, Allison and Watson, Elaine McShane, Jo-Anne Sanders, Janet Tolley and John Walsh.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2018.

RESOLVED –

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2018 be approved as a correct record.

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 Presentation by Children in Care Council (CICC) and Care Leavers Forum (CL Forum)

The Board considered a verbal presentation from Sanna Mahmood, Care Leavers Advocate, on behalf of the Children in Care Council (CICC) and the Care Leavers Forum (CL Forum).

Sanna Mahmood highlighted the following key issues:-

- One of the purposes of the CICC and CL Forum was to enable young people in care to build friendship groups with other young people with whom they have common interests;
- The CICC and CL Forum had created a logo and were working on a pledge;
- Members of the groups were made up of school age children between 7 to 13 years old and care leavers and dates of meetings had been arranged;
- an area of focus for the groups was accessing suitable housing, financial budgeting and housekeeping and helping to prepare the young people for living in and managing their own homes.

Sanna Mahmood advised the Board that one of the main issues for the young people was being able to access the right type of housing in Kirklees. The Board noted that there were some barriers to young people getting access to some types of housing. The Board agreed that it would be helpful if the Council could try and help young people to access suitable housing and build relationships with KNH and Housing Associations. Cllr Marchington advised that he was on the KNH Board and suggested that he could raise this issue at a future meeting. The Board also recognised that providers of affordable electrical goods and services was important.

The Board noted that some Members had visited the No 11 drop-in facility for young people in care and had noted the facilities available, such as cooking a meal, accessing computers and a chance to meet other young people.

Sanna Mahmood informed the Board that a report on the outcomes and progress of the CICC and CL Forum meetings would be drafted and shared in due course with the Corporate Parenting Board – date to be determined.

Resolved –

1. That the verbal presentation on the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum be noted and that Sanna Mahmood, Care Leavers Advocate, be thanked for attending the meeting.
2. That the Board agreed to update their Membership to include representatives from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum.
3. That the Board consider a progress report from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum at a future meeting – date to be determined.

7. Review of Membership and Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Board

The Board considered a review of the Terms of Reference and the Membership of the Board prior to Council Annual General Meeting on the 23rd May.

The Board agreed that the Chairs of the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum, the Designated Nurse for Looked after Children and a representative from the Kirklees Fostering Network should be included on the Membership of the Board and be invited to attend future meetings.

The Board agreed it was important not to duplicate the work of the Children's Partnership Board, but that the Corporate Parenting Board should challenge performance, achievement and progress within the Children's Service.

Councillor Kendrick advised the Board that she had recently met with the Kirklees Fostering Network Chair and Deputy and suggested that could be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

The Board noted that a report on progress of the Board would be submitted to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Council in the 2018/19 municipal year – date to be determined.

The Board agreed that reference should be made within the Terms of Reference to the statutory responsibility for the health of looked after children.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Terms of Reference be amended to make reference to the statutory responsibility for the health of Looked after Children.
2. That the Board's Membership be updated as agreed.
3. That the revised Terms of Reference be agreed.
4. That a report be considered by Council AGM on the 23rd May to request approval to re-establish the Corporate Parenting Board and note the revised Terms of Reference.
5. That a progress report on the work of the Board be submitted to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Council in the 2018/19 municipal year – date to be determined.

8 Ofsted Update

The Board considered a verbal update on Ofsted by Steve Comb, Interim Head of Corporate Parenting.

Steve Comb advised the Board that a 2 day monitoring visit by Ofsted had taken place on the 13th and 14th March 2018 and that Ofsted had focussed on the experiences of looked after children who were placed with their parents.

The Board noted a letter from Ofsted which was attached to the agenda and Steve Comb highlighted the key findings and comments, as follows:-

- Strong support and high level challenge being modelled by senior managers was starting to have a positive impact on staff morale;

- A comprehensive professional development framework was better supporting staff to access learning and training opportunities;
- Reports being developed were more robust and were being used more confidently by frontline managers to support their oversight of practice;
- No children had been found in situations of unassessed risk in the cases seen;
- Children were being seen regularly whilst placed at home, and where appropriate their views were acted upon;
- The quality assurance framework was being embedded;
- The Corporate Parenting Board was not providing sufficiently robust oversight or challenge about the quality of practice and the pace of change needed in this area had been slow;
- Inspectors spoke to staff who said they felt they were receiving better support from their managers and that they felt more confident to ask for advice and guidance;
- Supervision of staff was now more regular and managers were more accessible.

Cllr Kendrick advised the Board that she had been interviewed by Ofsted, as Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Chair of the Board. Cllr Kendrick further explained that not having a young person's voice on the Board made it less effective. The Board noted that the Corporate Parenting Strategy was being updated and agreed that the evidence that staff were starting to feel safer and more supported in the Children's Service was very positive.

The Board agreed that even though there was still a lot of work to do, the report from Ofsted was more positive in terms of progress made.

Steve Comb advised the Board that Liquid Logic would be implemented later in 2018 and that training was ongoing and migration testing was being undertaken. The Board was informed that workshops were being held on the implementation of Liquid Logic.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that as part of the Children's Framework, there was a more streamlined process for scrutinising case files and that conversations with social workers, managers and voice of the child was informing good practice.

Steve Comb advised the Board that the Children's Scrutiny Panel had visited one of the Children's Homes and had fed back their comments which had been followed up. Cllr Kendrick advised that she had visited a Children's Home in Kirklees and met with staff.

Councillor Kendrick advised the Board that she had visited the Fostering, Children in Care Teams and Social Worker Service to meet staff and was starting to make the relevant links to the work of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Steve Comb advised the Board that the following figures were sent to Cllr Kendrick on a weekly basis:-

- Number of children in care
- Number of children in need
- Number of children with a child protection plan

The Board agreed to discuss its work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year at the first meeting on the 9th July 2018 and agree what information should be considered and how that information should be presented to the Board.

Councillor Kendrick advised that there were currently 2 places for Kirklees Councillors on the Kirklees Fostering Panels, but that the Panels were struggling to be quorate due to the time commitment required from Councillors. The Board was informed that Kirklees was currently considering whether to have a pool of Councillors to sit on the Fostering Panels, which would allow other elected members to get an in-depth knowledge of some of the issues involved in the corporate parenting role.

RESOLVED –

1. That the verbal update on Ofsted, following the monitoring visit on the 13 and 14 March, be noted.

9 CSE and Missing Provision

The Board considered a report on CSE and Missing Provision presented by Ophelia Rix, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance.

The Board noted that the overall vision of the service was to reduce the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and episodes of children missing from home and care.

Ophelia Rix highlighted the following key issues:-

- In the month of February 2018, 125 children were referred to social care due to missing episodes, all of which would have been offered a missing return interview;
- The Team were proposing to strengthen links with Licensing and the Police and were looking at the safeguarding practices of the night time economy and visiting businesses;
- The data from return interviews would be scrutinised to look at the areas where children go missing to;
- The team were working with schools regarding children who go missing during the school day.

The Board agreed that future reports on CSE and Missing should include the numbers of missing episodes, numbers of interviews held and outcomes.

Ophelia Rix advised the Board that staff in the team were working with the Police and sharing information on missing children on a daily basis. The Board was informed that real efforts were being made to have consistent independent persons undertaking the return interviews to build relationships

with children who go missing and there had therefore been an increase in the take up of interviews and better outcomes for children. Ophelia Rix further explained that the number of missing episodes in Children's Homes had seen a significant reduction and that the Police had better relationships with Children's Homes and were visiting them regularly.

The Board noted that a Partnership day would be held in July and suggested that Members of the Board could be invited to have some input.

The Board agreed to receive regular updates on the progress of the CSE and Missing provision – dates to be determined.

The Board agreed that the work with the night time economy and engaging with businesses was a priority.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report on CSE and Missing Provision and proposal of the development of a Risk and Vulnerability Team be noted.
2. That future progress reports on CSE and Missing Provision be considered by the Board, that included numbers of missing episodes, numbers of interviews held and outcomes.

10 Statement of Purpose for Registered Children's Homes (Annual Report)

The Board considered an Annual Report on the Statement of Purpose for three mainstream residential Children's Homes in Kirklees presented by Laura Counce, Residential Service Manager.

Laura Counce advised the Board that there were three mainstream residential homes in Kirklees that were inspected by Ofsted once a year. The Board noted that all three homes cared for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties between the ages of 13 and 16 years old on admission. Laura Counce further explained that the Statement of Purpose set out important factors in the care of a young person, as outlined in the report.

Laura Counce advised the Board of a model called "Pillars of Parenting" used in all three homes, which was an emotional warmth model of caring for young people which drew from the knowledge base of applied psychology, theory and research and was designed to empower the main carers of young people in care. The Board was informed that the main focus of the model was to focus on matching the children to the right home, whilst taking account of the impact on the child and other children in the home.

Steve Comb advised the Board that Copthorne Children's Home had its Ofsted registration suspended in November 2017 and that this was due to safeguarding and fire safety concerns. The Board was informed that Kirklees had been working with Ofsted to meet the requirements of the compliance notices for Copthorne Children's Home and that it would re-open in May 2018 as a 4 bedded home. Steve Comb explained that the Statement of Purpose for the Copthorne Children's Home was being reviewed.

The Board was informed that six bedded Children's Homes were complex to manage and that the Council would be looking at the make-up and offer of its in-house provision to ensure it met with the Service's sufficiency needs for the future.

The Board suggested that it would be useful to see examples of best practice for standards of children's homes. Laura Counce advised that monthly meetings took place with semi-independent private residential home providers and suggested that representatives of the Board could be invited to attend these meetings.

Laura Counce advised that the Statement of Purpose for Healds Road and Woodlands Children's Homes were being reviewed and would be submitted to Ofsted shortly.

The Board noted that a Sufficiency Strategy for looked after children resources was currently in the approval pathway and had recently been presented to the Chief Executive and Executive Team.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Annual Report on the Statement of Purpose for Children's Homes in Kirklees be noted.

11 Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service (Annual report)

The Board considered an Annual Report on the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service presented by Steve Comb, Interim Head of Corporate Parenting.

The Board noted that the three main aims of the Fostering Service was to:-

- Provide continuously improving quality placements with foster carers for all children and young people where it was assessed as being in their best interests to be cared for in a family setting;
- To recruit foster carers who could meet the assessed needs of children;
- To assist looked after children and care leaving young people within Kirklees to improve and drive up their life chances and outcomes.

Steve Comb advised that the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service would be submitted to Ofsted. The Board was informed that the biggest challenge for Kirklees was the recruitment of foster carers and that Kirklees would be holding a Fostering Fortnight event in May 2017 to try and recruit more foster carers.

The Board agreed to receive further details regarding the Fostering Fortnight and any other events relevant to the role of Corporate Parenting.

Steve Comb further explained that Fostering Network meetings had been arranged for the rest of 2018. The Board was informed that a new Acting Service Manager, Andy Quinlan, had recently been appointed in the Fostering Service.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Annual Report on the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service be noted.
2. That the Board receive information regarding the Foster Fortnight event taking place in May 2018 and other future events relevant to the role of Corporate Parenting.

12 Corporate Parenting Strategy for Kirklees 2018-2020 – Corporate Parenting Function and the seven principles of Corporate Parenting

The Board considered a report on the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Kirklees 2018-2020 and a report outlining the Corporate Parenting Function and the seven principles of Corporate Parenting presented by Steve Comb, Interim Head of Corporate Parenting.

The Board agreed that any elected members who were involved in the Corporate Parenting Board or other Children's Panels should receive more detailed training that was tailored to be fit for purpose for the role of Corporate Parenting.

Steve Comb advised the Board that following the elections, training would be arranged for Members of the Board and other elected members as appropriate on the Corporate Parenting Principles.

The Board agreed that a working group be established to revise the Corporate Parenting Strategy, which would include the Chair and other elected Members of the Board.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report on the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Kirklees 2018-20 Corporate Parenting Function and the seven principles of Corporate Parenting be noted.
2. That a working group be established to revise the Corporate Parenting Strategy, which would include the Chair and other elected Members of the Board.
3. That Members of the Board have access to and be invited to training as required on the role of Corporate Parenting.

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

The Board considered the progress of the Board during the 2017/18 municipal year and identified issues to put forward for consideration during 2018/19.

The Board agreed that the Chair and key Officers should work with the Governance Officer to agree dates for submission of key reports to the Corporate Parenting Board during the 2018/19 municipal year and finalise the Board's agenda plan for consideration by the Board in July 2018.

RESOLVED -

1. That the progress of the Board during the 2017/18 municipal year be noted.

2. That the Work Programme and Agenda Plan of the Corporate Parenting Board for 2018/19 be reviewed at the first meeting of the Board in July 2018.
3. That the Board's supporting officer be authorised to liaise with attendees to address the agreed actions.

11 Dates of Future Meetings

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

- Monday 9th July 2018, 10 am
- Monday 24th September 2018, 10 am
- Monday 19th November 2018, 10 am
- Monday 21st January 2019, 10 am
- Monday 11th March 2019, 10 am
- Monday 15th April 2019, 10 am