

## Corporate Parenting Board

Thursday, 29 November 2018, County Hall, Worcester - 2.00 pm

### Present:

#### Minutes

Mr A C Roberts (Chairman), Mr R C Adams, Mrs L C Hodgson, Dr C Hotham, Mr M Johnson, Mrs F M Oborski, Mrs J A Potter and Cllr David Watkins

### Also attended:

Kate Bailey, Sally Branchflower, Alison Brill, Sally Clewes, Catherine Driscoll, Jeremy Newell, Tina Russell, Jake Shaw, Rona Whitfield.

The Chairman made two announcements:

- The Channel 4 documentary 'Superkids' shown the previous evening had been very good. The poet Lemn Sissay spoke to young people about their experiences of care.
- This would be the last Corporate Parenting Board meeting for Jake Shaw who was moving to a new job. As Lead Member for Children and Families, The Chairman thanked Jake for his hard work and wished him the best for the future.

### 162 Apologies

Apologies were received from Gareth Prosser, Margaret Sherrey and Juliet Smith.

### 163 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 11 October 2018 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

### 164 Review of Previous Action Points

#### **ACTION**

**A list of action points from the previous year's meetings was distributed.**

**The list of points would be considered at the next meeting – 7 February 2019 - to ensure they had been actioned.**

**See attached list.**

### 165 ADDITIONAL ITEM - Integrated Service for

Lisa Bradshaw gave a presentation about the work of the Integrated Service for Looked After Children (ISL) Health and Wellbeing Team.

The Team Vision was 'To promote the health, attachment

## Looked After and Adopted Children

and security of Looked After and Adopted Children by enabling others to support positive futures'. Promoting attachment was improving the child's attachment to the primary care giver.

The team delivered specialist attachment training and therapeutic intervention, carried out health assessments and provided educational, vocational and leisure opportunities. Outcome measures were assessed at the beginning and end of intervention but it was difficult to assess what was achieved compared to what may have happened if there had been no intervention.

Various interventions included:

- Attachment Training group work led by psychologists, Social workers or mental health practitioners. It allowed more carers and workers to be reached, the quality of foster placements to be improved and through that to improve placement stability. Clinical levels of anxiety and depression were measured before intervention, at the end of the intervention and 3 months after intervention and was found to have a marked improvement
- Consultation meetings which helped to understand the child's emotional needs and provide strategies to support behaviour
- Therapeutic Input either with talking therapies or play therapies. The £50,000 therapy budget covered 17 hours a week for a Clinical Psychologist and therapeutic interventions for Out of County and Independent Foster Agency placements
- Parenting support; which involved meetings with social workers to help understand the impact of past experiences on children's behaviour, identify triggers, suggest therapeutic parenting techniques and promote placement stability
- Community projects - including the Green Fingers project, apprenticeships and Music and Arts sessions.

In 2017/18 the team received 120 referrals; between 1 April 2018 and 19 November 2018 106 referrals had been received.

**166      Serious Case  
Reviews**

Future challenges included clarification of the eligibility criteria to enable services to be in place before crisis occurred and improving the completion rates of health assessments. The team would move into Throughcare Services to allow closer working with the Looked After Teams while in future Adoption work would be delivered by Adoption Central England.

During the following discussion it was clarified that:

- The team made use of multi-agency working and used CAMHS questionnaires used to measure whether children met the CAMHS criteria. Developmental trauma did not meet the CAMHS criteria but the team did challenge that when necessary
- When Children were placed out of the county, health assessments were completed by the authority where they resided provided the child was registered with a Doctor. Telephone support and funds from the therapy budget may be provided by Worcestershire
- Therapists both within and outside the County were being invited to join the framework of workers so therapists would be available in more areas if their services were needed. A bid had been put in to gain funding to allow all children who became known to the service to be assessed to see if they required therapy.

A new national Children's Safeguarding Practice Review Panel had been set up and would consider all serious case notifications. They would instruct a Local Children's Safeguarding Review (formerly a Serious Case Review) to take place if necessary. Tina Russell gave details of the three serious case reviews which had taken place in 2017/18 and 2018 to date, one of which related to a Looked After Child.

After a brief outline of the cases she highlighted the main points of learning. It was emphasised that the responsibility for sharing learning and monitoring implementation of actions lay with the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board and details of the learning and how that was disseminated was included in their annual reports.

Board Members appreciated the presentation and agreed they did not require any further detail.

**ACTION**

- **A report on Serious Case Reviews would be**

**167**      **ADDITIONAL  
ITEM - Housing  
for Care  
Leavers**

**brought to the CPB on an annual basis. Any SCR related to a Looked After Child would be brought to the next appropriate meeting.**

Justine Bishop, Outreach Service Manager explained that there were currently 25 young people in supported living and approaching their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthdays with no plan of where they would live in future.

It was clarified that the statutory housing responsibilities were being fulfilled but there was not enough housing stock so young people were left with little choice and limited notice to move.

Members of the Board agreed that the situation was not good enough as care leavers were meant to be a priority for the County Council and all Districts.

It was pointed out that Registered Social Landlords did not have a Corporate Parenting role. Councillors were encouraged to speak to RSLs in the short term to explain that the majority of care leavers were ready to be responsible tenants. It was suggested that someone should go along to Registered Landlord forums to encourage private landlords to take on Care Leavers.

A Board member suggested that the County Council should act as guarantor for Care Leavers or rent flats which it could be sub-let to Care Leavers.

**Actions**

- **District representatives should contact Justine Bishop if they have forums where a useful presentation on local need for care leavers would enhance understanding and/or planning,**
- **Tina Russell would take the issue forward in other related strategic forums in the county.**

**168**      **Quarter 2 Data**

For information.

**169**      **Household  
Items Collection**

If anyone had any new or very good condition household items which were no longer required the Care Leavers Team would be happy to accept donations and put them to good use please contact Justine Bishop  
[JBishop4@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:JBishop4@worcestershire.gov.uk)

**170**      **Work Plan**

For information.

**171 Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting would be 7 February 2019 at 2pm in the Lakeview Room at County Hall.

And then:

- 21 March 2019
- 13 June 2019
- 19 July 2019
- 8 October 2019
- 27 November 2019

The meeting ended at 4.00pm

Chairman .....

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## CORPORATE PARENT COMMITTEE, ACTION POINTS FROM MEETINGS – SO WHAT

<b><i>We said we would.....</i></b>	<b><i>We did.....</i></b>
<b>Thursday, 5 October 2017.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The number of children placed in County but still more than 20 miles from home should be shown in future reports,</li> <li>2. Foster Carer recruitment would be put on a future agenda,</li> <li>3. The data set would be signed off at the November meeting.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Draft Joint Housing Protocol would be brought to the next meeting for sign off,</li> <li>2. A statement on health and well-being should be included in future reports,</li> <li>3. A response should be prepared regarding the issues raised by the Care Leavers Team Managers.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Looked after Children and Care Leavers should be prioritised in the Transformation Plan;</li> <li>2. At a future meeting the transition between children and adult services would be looked at in more detail.</li> </ol>	
<b>Thursday, 30 November 2017.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The format and content of the data was agreed to be useful with the headline information available for each meeting and the in depth data for each district brought quarterly;</li> <li>2. The data would be made available to other County and District Councillors with all enquiries brought to the Board by the representatives; and</li> <li>3. Reports on children missing and an update on health assessments would be brought to future meetings.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further updates would be brought back to the Board from the Virtual School Head Teacher, and</li> <li>2. The Chairman referred Board Members to the Health and Well-being Board's report on Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) on the agenda for 5 December 2017.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Corporate Parenting Board was happy to endorse the Joint Social Care and Housing Protocol for Care Leavers;</li> <li>2. The Board supported the key aims of the protocol               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To develop jointly commissioned training flats</li> <li>b. To jointly commission emergency temporary accommodation for care</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

<p>leavers aged over 18 as a direct alternative to the use of B&amp;Bs</p> <p>c. To agree a robust 'Prevention of Eviction' process for Care Leavers, which would apply across Strategic Housing, Housing Providers and Children, Families and Communities; and</p> <p>d. Would welcome a further update on housing and transitions at a future meeting.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Board agreed to adopt the Care Leaver's wish list where possible;       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure that items on the wish list were progressed if full adoption was not possible;</li> <li>b) Receive regular updates from the Care Leavers Service; and</li> <li>c) Send a letter to the Young People who presented the Wish List to let them know that the Board has discussed and considered the list.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress the work around subsidising council tax for care leavers</li> <li>• Extend training flats county wide</li> <li>• Joint commission with housing for those young people with the most complex needs</li> <li>• Will and commitment to have a joined up Prevention of Eviction policy</li> <li>• Consider Pathway Plan as core document in a young person's Looked After Review.</li> <li>• IROs to ensure completion and quality of pathway plan</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<p><b>Thursday, 8 February 2018.</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Corporate Parenting Board receives regular updates on the progress of housing and care leavers from both the Care Leavers Services and District Housing.</li> <li>2. The data specific to some of the youth groups be looked at and discussed with Speak Out.</li> <li>3. Sally Clewes to speak to young people looking for homes - to identify how they wish to be referred to as an alternative to 'homeless'.</li> <li>4. Sally Clewes to share the minutes of those discussions.</li> <li>5. Catherine Driscoll to feedback comments that the WM Framework does not include questions specifically on corporate parenting.</li> <li>6. Jake Shaw agreed to feedback to the Corporate Parenting Board if Council Leaders agreed to endorsing care leavers being exempt from council tax.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PowerPoint on the activity day at Perdiswell to be circulated to the Board.</li> </ol>	

2. Sally Branchflower agreed to feedback on the effectiveness of the consultation through the IRO annual report.	
1. Tina Russell to update the Corporate Parenting Board on the three cases used as examples of safeguarding.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sally Clewes agreed to send information on Leisure Passes to the Corporate Parenting Board.</li> <li>2. Councillor Bayliss to take the issue of changes to leisure passes to the County and District Leaders Group.</li> <li>3. Leaders of the Council to meet and discuss with representatives of the Looked After Children groups.</li> </ol>	
1. Corporate Parenting Board Members to provide availability for w/c 3 <sup>rd</sup> April.	
<b>Thursday, 22 March 2018.</b>	
1. The Chairman asked the Team Managers to take back to the individuals involved how impressed the Board had been.	
1. The list of options for visits should be distributed to Councillors who were requested to respond by 28 March about which ones they would be available for	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The meeting takeover by Youth Voice Groups would be moved to July as the original June date would be within the exam period.</li> <li>2. Jake Shaw would continue his round of visits to attend District Council meetings to give a presentation on Corporate Parenting.</li> <li>3. Workshops to explain Corporate Parenting to District Councillors had been proposed. They would be led by the LGA and there would be one for the North of the County and one for the South.</li> </ol>	
<b>Thursday, 7 June 2018.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Judy Chadwick to consider if a target could be set for the numbers of apprenticeships given by the Council which were filled by Looked After Children,</li> <li>2. Selina Rawicz and Judy Chadwick to consider the procedure to enable the list of Council Vacancies to be shown to all Looked After Children Who were looking for work. For appropriate positions they would be interviewed first,</li> <li>3. The County Council, Districts and Partners of the Board to consider how they support our looked after children and care leavers to have access to the 'Family Firm' through work experience, apprenticeships and job opportunities,</li> </ol>	

<p>4. District Councils to consider how their own commissioning could ensure contracts include a 'social value added' measure to offer Looked After Children and Care Leavers work and training opportunities.</p>	
<p><b>Thursday, 12 July 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Planning and Training Session</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Corporate parenting board to officially respond to all local plan consultations</li> <li>2. Consider the development of an Emotional wellbeing service for Looked After Children – pooling budgets across partners - to provide a much more pro-active service.</li> <li>3. District Councils to adopt and report on how they are meeting the Pledge - through adopting their own CP strategy, and developing a system of annual reporting.</li> <li>4. All Councillors to be briefed on what it is to be a corporate parent - and examples of how they can live this.</li> <li>5. A District Councillor to take the Vice- Chair of the Board</li> <li>6. Systematically review the impact on Looked-after children and care leavers in service and policy changes</li> <li>7. Ensure that accommodation for Looked after children is included within all Local Plans</li> </ol>	<p>See timetable.</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 11 October 2018</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A short report would be brought to the next meeting to clarify the numbers of NEETS and what could be done to help Looked After Children once they got to 18 and were looking for employment or training</li> <li>2. The Chairman and The VS Head Teacher should discuss how future Annual Reports should be presented taking into account the request for an 'organisation plan' and a flow chart showing the Children's journey through care so that District Councils can see more clearly where they could contribute</li> <li>3. A list of schools which had not completed their necessary training should be made available to Councillors so that they could encourage them to make staff available for the training.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. That a report be brought back to a future meeting about the success of setting up a flat for Care Leavers</li> <li>5. That figures for previously Looked After Children who were classed as homeless be brought to a future meeting.</li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Corporate Parenting Board Members were invited to watch the Fostering Recruitment film</li> </ol>	

There was a boy, which could be found at <a href="https://www.worcestershirefostering.co.uk/the-rewasaboy/">https://www.worcestershirefostering.co.uk/the-rewasaboy/</a>	
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