

Time commenced – 1.01pm  
Time finished – 2.38pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE**  
**26 July 2016**

Present: Councillor Bolton (Chair)  
Councillor Roulstone, Russell, Whitby

In attendance: Pervez Akhtar – Corporate Parenting Lead  
Gill Black and Diane Cook – Volunteering Matters  
Maureen Darbon – Director of Early Help and Children's  
Safeguarding  
Graeme Ferguson – Virtual School Head  
Annamarie Johannesson – Derby Foster Care Association  
Suanne Lim – Director Specialist Services  
Sally Penrose – Head of Service – Fostering Adoption  
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer

**01/16 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Care and Williams.

**02/16 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair**

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following items on the grounds that when they had previously been before the Committee, the meetings had been inquorate and the recommendations could not be agreed:

- Children and Young People Missing from Care
- East Midlands Regional Children's Framework – Provider Framework for Independent Fostering Agencies and Residential Care Providers for Children and Young People
- Annual Report of the Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children for the Academic Year 2014-15

**03/16 Children and Young People Missing from Care**

The Committee received a report of the former Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Children and Young People Missing from Care.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the progress on the Improvement Plan to reduce the incidences of children and young people who go missing; and**
- 2. to endorse plans for future actions and recommendations.**

**04/16      East Midlands Regional Children's Framework –  
Provider Framework for Independent Fostering  
Agencies and Residential Care Providers for Children  
and Young People**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on East Midlands Regional Children's Framework – Provider Framework for Independent Fostering Agencies and Residential Care Providers for Children and Young People.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the contents of the report;**
- 2. to note that EMRCF will commence 1 February 2016 and expire 31 January 2020; and**
- 3. to approve the Placement Sufficiency strategy.**

**05/16      Annual Report of the Head of the Virtual School for  
Looked After Children for the Academic Year  
2014-15**

The Committee received a report of the former Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Annual Report of the Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children for the Academic Year 2014-15.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to recognise the achievement of Derby's children who are looked after;  
and**
- 2. to support the areas for development as highlighted within the report.**

**06/16      Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Whitby wished it to be noted that he was a Derby City Council Foster Carer.

**07/16      Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2016 were noted.

**08/16      The Chair's Update Report on Member Visits to  
Children's Homes**

The Committee received a report of the Chair of Corporate Parenting Committee on The Chair's Update report on Member Visits to Children's Homes.

It was reported that Elected Members were Corporate Parents to all children in the care of Derby City Council, including those placed in residential care. It was further

reported that it was the responsibility of Elected Members to ensure that they were meeting the needs of these children and young people, providing them with the support and encouragement to develop and grow and meet their full potential.

It was noted that in order to fulfil the Councillors' role as Corporate Parents, a number of Members have been involved in visits to children's residential homes in Derby. It was also noted that further visits would restart in the Autumn.

The Chair provided an oral update on planned Members visits to children's homes.

**Resolved to note the update.**

## **09/16      Update on Implementation of Commitments Regarding Pledge for Children in Care**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Update on Implementation of Commitments Regarding Pledge for Children in Care.

It was reported that the Pledge was a promise made by Derby City Council to all children in its care. It was further reported that the Pledge was part of Derby's commitment to give children in their care the best opportunities they could have in life.

It was noted that departments across the council gave commitments to implementing the New Pledge at its launch on 26th January 2016.

It was reported that the Corporate Parenting Committee tasked itself to ensure that the whole Council was fully committed to the Pledge. It was further reported that as part of this overview the Corporate Parenting Committee had scheduled regular updates and progress monitoring of the departments commitments.

The Corporate Parenting Committee received an update on the progress made.

It was agreed that a further update be received in autumn 2016.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note progress made by the different departments; and**
- 2. to agree that a further update be brought before the Corporate Parenting Committee in autumn 2016.**

## **10/16      The Children's Rights Service – Annual Report 2015/16**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on The Children's Rights Service – Annual Report 2015/16. The report was presented by Gill Black and Diane Cook of Volunteering Matters.

It was reported that provision of the Children's Rights Service was enshrined in legislation for looked after children through the Children Act 1989 and through related regulation and guidance. It was further reported that the Council had a statutory duty to provide advocacy services for looked after children making complaints and to appoint independent visitors.

It was noted that the Children's Rights Service in Derby was made up of 4 services, delivered by Volunteering Matters:

- The Independent Visitor Service
- The Independent Advocacy Service
- Independent Advocacy at Child Protection Conference
- The Children in Care Council.

The Committee discussed the Independent Visitor Service and the number of referrals received. The Committee also discussed the Independent Advocacy Service, including non-instructed advocacy.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **11/16 Children in Care Council – Update July 2016**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Children in Care Council – Update July 2016. The report was presented by Gill Black and Diane Cook of Volunteering Matters.

It was reported that as part of the 2016/17 Corporate Parenting Committee programme, it was agreed that an update report from the Children In Care Council should be a standing agenda item. It was also reported that this was to enhance and facilitate the existing working relationship between the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Children In Care Council and also provide an opportunity for the Children in Care Council to share what they have discussed and progressed as part of their work.

The Committee received an update, highlighting issues discussed by the Children in Care Council during meetings in the previous quarter, guests who attended, participation opportunities and numbers of young people engaging.

**Resolved to note the update report.**

## **12/16 Children and Young People Missing from Care**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Children and Young People Missing from Care. The report and a presentation were presented by the Director of Early Help and Children's Safeguarding.

It was reported that the plan to reduce the incidences of children and young people going missing had been in place since May 2015 and was updated in June 2016, on the back of the annual report on missing children and young people for 2015-16.

The Committee received an update on progress made.

The Committee discussed the numbers of missing episodes, the difference between children missing from private residential homes and Derby City Council residential homes and return interviews.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the key themes of the annual report on children and young people who go missing; and**
- 2. to endorse the prospective improvement plan for children and young people who go missing which outlines future actions and recommendations.**

## **13/16 Foster Carer Recruitment**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Foster Carer Recruitment. The report was presented by the Head of Service – Fostering and Adoption.

The Committee received an update on progress made between January to June 2016 in fostering recruitment activity. It was noted that initial enquiries had experienced an 85% increase when compared to the previous year.

The Committee discussed the numbers of initial enquiries and the number of approvals. The Committee also discussed the timing of initial visits. It was noted that a new marketing officer was soon due to start. Two marketing documents were circulated to the Committee. The Committee discussed the conversion from foster carers to adopters.

**Resolved to approve the Fostering Agency report.**

MINUTES END