

Time commenced 1.00pm
Time finished 2.15pm

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 12 April 2022

Present: Councillors Lind, Williams and Pattison

In attendance: Pervez Akhtar, Corporate Parenting Lead
Laura Bradley, CiC Council Participation Officer
Tom and Amber, CiCC
Kelly Ormond, Principal Services Manager, Early Help & Children's Safeguarding
Heather Peet, Designated Nurse for CIC
Kelly Thompson, Named Nurse for CIC
Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services

31/21 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillors Hezelgrave, Hussain, Kus, and Pandey, Suanne Lim, Graeme Ferguson, Marlene Upchurch

32/21 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were none.

33/21 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

34/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

35/21 Children in Care Council (CiCC) Update

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Integrated Commissioning which was presented by the Participation Officer

The Committee heard about the key participation activities over the last quarter which included: CIC Council Meetings, Budget Consultation, Smoking Consultation, West Park School Participation Cohorts; East Midlands Regional Participation Leads Group working, CiCC Consultation.

The Deputy Head of Service for Early Help Services attended the January meeting of the CiCC to consult on "Missing" and obtain feedback from CiCC members. Key points from the CiCC were set out in the report at 4.1.

The February meeting was a face-to-face activity/consultation at Clip "N" Climb Derby. The activity was climbing for CiCC members followed by a consultation from the Designated Nurse for LAC who attended with a Director of an Animation Company to display and talk about animations created to inform children and young people (CYP) of Statutory Health Assessments when entering care. The event was the first activity and consultation event

and was enjoyed by all participants. The Participation Officer highlighted the key points learnt which are detailed in the report at 4.1.

A joint Budget Consultation with CiCC and Voices in Action (VIA) Youth Council took place on 5th January 2022. A presentation was given to the young people by the CYP Cabinet Member and the Director for Early Help about different proposals for council services for Children in Care, Early Help and Homelessness/Temporary Accommodation. The young people thought about which services were most important and voted for their top three. The results of the consultation are set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

A research consultation was arranged and facilitated by the University of Nottingham to consult with young people about smoking/vaping to undertake research into increasing the age of smoking to 21. Details of the consultation are attached at Appendix 2 of the report.

To promote the CIC Council, The Participation Officer facilitated 2 groups with CIC at West Park School. The CIC were informed about upcoming meetings and activities. A Budget Consultation also took place at these sessions. It was an opportunity for the Participation Officer to meet and engage with CYP on a personal level and provide them with a contact point if in the future they wished to join the CICC.

The Participation Officer highlighted the East Midlands Regional Participation Leads Group for Collaborative Working. It was planned to hold a regional CICC working group to discuss language used in Children's Services, the event would be residential and would take place in October 2022. There was an opportunity for 5 young people from CiCC in each Local Authority to attend, representation from CICC Derby City would be encouraged.

With the help of the Consultation Officer a consultation to go out to CIC had been produced. The aim of the consultation was to find out how CIC would like to be consulted with and the best ways to do this. The officer was keen to circulate the consultation to young people as widely as possible for their comments. The closing date was the end of April.

The Chair was pleased to hear about the ongoing joint work with young people to find out how council services can be improved. It was hoped to circulate the consultation for young people in the Schools Circular and the Foster Carer network. She asked if there was anything that the Committee could do to further encourage young people to participate.

The Designated Nurse thanked the CIC members who took part in the Clip "N" Climb event which had provided good feedback for her consultation on animations. She asked if there was a link or QR code for the consultation for CIC as this could be circulated to young people at their initial health assessments.

A councillor thanked the CICC for all their work and asked if everything possible was being done to ensure that consultations are prioritised and feedback and recommendations from CICC were being noted. The Chair stated that feedback from the CICC was important, and their input has meant changes had been made to improve services. It was important to highlight these changes and improvements. The CICC should hold the CYP Cabinet Member and Corporate Parenting Committee to account.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the content of the report and feedback from CICC

36/21 Annual Health Report 2020/21 for Derby City Children in Care

The Committee received a report of the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care. The report was presented by the Designated and Named Nurses for CiC. The report

provided a brief overview of the progress, challenges and opportunities and plans to support and improve the health and wellbeing of looked after children (LAC) in Derby.

The key points covered at this meeting would include the Annual Report 2020/21, CICA Team Update, Markers of Good Practice and Innovations/Ideas, Risks and Concerns and Celebrations.

The Named Nurse (NN) presented highlights from the Annual Report:

- **The Initial Health Assessment (IHA)** – this had been looked at by doctors, an administrative team and in collaboration with the Local Authority to improve compliance, make processes more robust and create the right route of escalation.
- **Health Performance Data** - this item was always included in the Annual Report. Evidence was gathered to feedback to the CCG on service delivery, all data, apart from dental, were comparable with national targets.
- **“My Health Passport” launched** - all CIC from age six to be given a health passport where they could log and keep track of health appointments/outcomes.
- **Voice of the Child**- continue to gather information from young people on Assessments, their aspirations and health needs.
- **SEND needs**, ensure that the right information was on their health records.
- **CICA Team Update** – admin hours had been increased as more children were coming into care. More medic time to cover the IHA, this is a clinic that doctors undertake when children first come into care, and during the adoption process.
- **Annual Derby and Derbyshire Development Day** – a virtual networking event, attended by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and Children’s and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHs).
- **Adaptions and Changes to service delivery during the Pandemic** these included telephone and video calls for assessments. There had been some face-to-face initial health assessments undertaken later in the Pandemic in a Covid secure health centre and using PPE.
- **Continuation of Foster Care Support** - there has been an increase choice of options available to use because of the Pandemic which has enabled assessments to be done across the country
- **Health Markers of Good Practice (MOGP)** - this gives the CIC Team an opportunity to showcase their service to the CCG and Designated Professionals. It helps the Team to show progress and highlight any gaps or improvements needed in the service. The MOGP is an in-depth marking system to ensure the service provided for young people is as good as it can be. It follows statutory guidance, and each year marking is tougher, the scheme has been running for five years.

New Innovations/Ideas were highlighted:

- **Sexual Health Project** – aiming to upskill foster carers and residential workers
- **Animation Films** – Two styles of films one for younger children and one for teenagers. Intended to inform children and young people about their health assessments
- **Survey Monkey for feedback** – written feedback on assessments can be given already by younger people, they now have the option of electronic feedback
- **UASC** – Trauma help and support for UASC
- **Free Prescription for Care Leavers** – under consideration
- **Review of Leaving Care Health Summary** – currently this is a paper version an electronic version would be costly. It was hoped that young people leaving care would get quick access GP Services.

The Risks and concerns were described

- **Continuing issues with Dental Registration** – Routine access for CIC has been difficult but was now improving. Children and young people have never been turned away if emergency treatment was needed. It was difficult to register CIC at dentists, in particular after newly coming into care or after an address move.
- **Competing Demands for Health team – IHAs and Adoption Work** – this was because more children are coming into care. Commissioning are exploring options.
- **UASC and Former UASC** – More nursing capacity is being considered. Often UASC will only have a health assessment by doctors for Initial Health Assessment (due to being 17yrs +) but not eligible for a statutory review by the nurses. Additional funds for nursing teams being explored to improve the health support for UASC/former UASC

The Committee were informed of work done to celebrate

- **Collaboration** – strengthened links and collaboration with partner agencies across Derbyshire
- **CICA Team DEED Award** – given in recognition of the Teams hard work
- **Impact for Children and young people** – Nurses and medics talk about the impact they made. Young people with mental health issues being supported by schools and social workers

The Chair noted the work being done by the Health Teams to persuade dentists to take on more young people and asked if the Committee could do anything to support them. The Designated Nurse thanked the Chair and confirmed that support was being provided by the NHS and Dental Commissioners and the situation was currently looking more favourable than last year.

The Committee asked if in terms of engagement with young people going forward would the team be looking at using a more blended approach of telephone calls, virtual work as well as face to face. The officer confirmed that young people would be given options including clinic based, home based or virtual assessments.

The Chair was pleased with the health data and performance statistics for 2020/21 which were set out in the report. She noted that Derby's completion rates for Annual Health Assessments, Immunisations and Development Checks were all in the 90% range. However, dental checks were the exception to this having a lower completion rate. She felt the direction of travel was good and congratulated the team on their work.

The Chair asked for details of the trauma care available for UASC arriving in the UK from war torn circumstances. Officers explained there was an Emotional Health and Wellbeing service available for trauma support. The service was available for UASC up to the age of 25, there are links with other health and social care teams as well as the YMCA.

A councillor thanked the team for the support they provided and stated it was good to see the Team were using surveys to seek the views of young people in care. The councillor asked what work had been done on an individual basis for young people when accessing dental care, were appointments times flexible, was there support for anxiety about dental treatments. The officer explained that dentists are invited to attend Safeguarding Training, which was offered to all practices, at the sessions they talk about emotional needs. The councillor asked if there were any clinical professional development requirements (CPD) for dentists, it was explained that there was a Dentistry Council in place, this acted in a similar way as the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Dentists must undertake a certain number of hours of training before they can re-register.

The Committee considered the content of the report.

37/21 Update Report on Children in Care Missing

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Peoples Services. The report was presented by the Principal Services Manager for Early Help and Children's Safeguarding. The report provided an overview of the current performance and actions taken to support improvement in outcomes for missing episodes of Looked After Children (LAC) in Derby

The officer explained that Derby had high numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) but strong overview and networks were in place to provide them with support. The arrangements to deliver the Missing Protocol sit across the partnership and there was a well established and good relationship with Derbyshire Police. There was also wide membership of the Missing Persons Strategic Group.

There was a high percentage of missing episodes by young people from Derby City Council Residential Care Homes. This was usually a small number of children who go missing often. Statistical data for the "missing" LAC children in Derby was highlighted. There had been a slight increase in the number of missing episodes in April to September 2021 (177), but this number had decreased during October to December 2021 (133). The total number of missing episodes during April to December 2021 was 310.

The Committee were informed that there are statutory timescales for completion of RIs after a missing episode. The collected data had been examined to understand completion rates. In July to September 160 RIs had been completed and 110 RIs in October to December 2021, there had been a push to complete RIs by March 2022.

The Committee heard that many LAC children who go "missing" are with their families. LAC children tend to go missing together and either return by themselves without service intervention or they will phone the residential home or police to ask for a lift. During the Pandemic and lockdown "missing children" had been attending house parties. There are five hot spots in Derby where missing children have been found these include: Derby Bus Station, The River Gardens, The Mackworth and Morley areas, Curzon Street, and the surrounding area. The Racecourse and Chaddesden Park. Children missing tend to stay local and either walk or use bikes and taxis. Local taxi companies are monitored to see which ones are used regularly. The learning from Audits and Mocksted key lines of enquiry had shown that there was an overall improvement in the quality of RIs. The form was now on the system and workers understood better the risk associated with young people going missing.

The definition of "missing" had been discussed at the CIC Council who felt it was appropriate and they understood why young people were reported as "missing". The language used was not a barrier between the young person and the worker when taking part in an RI. However, young people felt that a Social Worker was not always the person they would choose to confide in and suggested alternatives such as teachers. Key resources like "Missing" leaflets and tool kits had been shared with the CICC and the service was waiting for feedback to see if they could be improved. Any appropriate changes would be made to leaflets following the feedback. It was planned to use the documents for all "Missing" children not just LAC.

Moving forward training and development options under consideration included a deeper audit on "Missing episodes" than just the quality of the RIs. Thresholds would be looked at and how to prevent further missing episodes for all young people not just LAC. A development session with CIC staff and partner agencies was being contemplated around the overall approach to "Missing". This will consider feedback received from the CIC Council regarding the Social Worker not necessarily being the best person for children missing to speak to are RIs.

The Chair asked what constituted a "Void Interview" and the officer explained that interviews were voided if following a "Missing episode" a child was held in remand by police for criminal

investigation or if they were admitted to hospital with mental health concerns, or if reported “missing” but were with their family.

The Chair highlighted the importance of RIs taking place in time to meet statutory guidelines. She sought assurance that the RIs would take place given the issues of children at risk of exploitation (CRE). She also had concerns about young people talking to anyone other than a Social Worker at their RI as alternative professions would need to have had current training to undertake the interview. The officer explained that the Missing Team would provide further training and that the Social Worker would retain overall sight of the case and would undertake the return interview if there were safeguarding risks following information received from police via the missing and found compacts.

A councillor asked if date could be provided for when children return on their own and when they had to be brought back by services. The officer agreed to source data and analysis for a future meeting.

The Committee resolved:

- 1. To acknowledge the progress made and actions to be completed**
- 2. To explore the additional actions to support the reduction in the number of missing episodes for young people placed in Derby City Council Residential Homes and Foster Care in the City**
- 3. To ensure those looked after young people in out of authority placements are monitored and supported appropriately**

MINUTES END