

Time commenced – 1.02pm
Time finished – 2.49pm

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE
28 July 2015

Present: Councillor Bolton (Chair)
Councillors Russell and Whitby

01/15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Jones and Williams.

02/15 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/15 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

04/15 Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Terms of Reference and Work Programme. The report was presented by the Corporate Parenting Lead.

Members were given an opportunity to study the Committee's Terms of Reference and remit for the forthcoming municipal year.

Members were also given an opportunity to consider the proposed Corporate Parenting Committee work programme.

Members discussed the possibility of them attending Children in Care Council meetings, once or twice a year.

Members discussed Councillors carrying out visits to children's homes over the coming municipal year, both announced and unannounced.

Resolved:

- 1. to agree the Committee's Terms of Reference;**
- 2. to agree the Committee's work programme for the forthcoming year; and**
- 3. to agree that Councillor Whitby be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.**

05/15 Looked After Children – Annual Report 2014/15

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Looked After Children – Annual Report 2014/15. The report and a presentation were presented by the Policy and Improvement Manager.

It was reported that at the end of March 2015 there were a total of 470 looked after children within the City of Derby, which equated to a rate of 81.3 per 10,000 children and young people under 18 years of age. It was further reported that this represented an increase of 6% from March 2014 when there was a total of 445 looked after children (rate of 77.5 per 10,000).

Members noted that the largest percentage of Derby's looked after children were:

- male (61%)
- aged 10 – 15 years (37%)
- White British (70%)
- have been in care for less than one year (31.5%)
- have the legal status of 'full care order' (50.9%).

Members received an update on recent trends pertaining to the outcomes for Derby's looked after children.

Members discussed the numbers of looked after children with a current Personal Education Plan (PEP).

Resolved to note the report and presentation.

06/15 Children's Rights Service – Annual Report 2014/15

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on The Children's Rights Service – Annual Report 2014/15. The report and a presentation were presented by an employee of Community Service Volunteers (CSV).

It was reported that CSV had over 50 years experience of working with volunteers, and currently supported up to 100,000 volunteers nationwide, every year, across a wide range of programmes. It was further reported that CSV's vision was of a society where everyone can participate to build strong and inclusive communities.

Members noted that CSV had been working alongside Derby City Council since 2001, initially through providing the Independent Visitor Service and from 2004 for the Independent Advocacy Service. Members also noted that from 2009 the CSV provided the Independent Advocacy at Child Protection Conference and from 2011 the Children in Care Council. It was reported that the current contract was due to expire in 2017.

It was reported that the Children's Rights Service was made up of 4 projects; the Independent Visitor Service, the Independent Advocacy Service, the Independent Advocacy at Child Protection Conference and the Children in Care Council. It was further reported that the majority of these projects were facilitated by the use of

volunteers. Members noted that over the course of this period, the Children's Rights Service had worked with over 60 volunteers, some of whom had been volunteering with the service since 2008. Members also noted that the CSV was proud of this achievement, as nationally volunteer retention could be problematic.

Members discussed the challenges involved in attracting volunteers.

Resolved to note the report and presentation.

07/15 Independent Reviewing Service – Annual Report 2014/15

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Independent Reviewing Service – Annual Report 2014/15. The report and a presentation were presented by the Corporate Parenting Lead.

It was reported that the IRO Handbook 2010 provided the statutory guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) and Local Authorities on their statutory functions in relation to case management and review of looked after children. It was also reported that as part of this statutory guidance, there was a requirement for the manager of the IRO Service to produce an annual report for the scrutiny of the Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Members noted that every child who was looked after by Derby City Council must have a care plan which detailed the long term plan for the child's upbringing and the arrangements made by Derby's Children and Young Peoples Service to meet the child's day to day needs. Members also noted that all local authorities had a statutory duty to regularly review that care plan within legislative timescales (Care Planning and Case Review Regulations 2010).

It was reported that every child in care should have a named IRO to provide continuity in the oversight of the case and to enable the IRO to develop a consistent relationship with the child. It was also reported that the child's care plan must be prepared before the child was first placed by the local authority or, if this was not practicable, within ten working days of the start of the first placement. Members noted that the IRO must be appointed to the child's case with 5 days.

Members discussed the value of IRO's to foster carers and asked if there was any way to incorporate IRO feedback into the annual foster carer reviews. Members noted that the Corporate Parenting Lead would look into the matter.

Resolved to note the report and presentation.

MINUTES END