

Time commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 8.00pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD  
7 OCTOBER 2014**

Present: Councillor Williams (Chair)  
Councillors Eldret, Hezelgrave, Keith, Nawaz and Whitby

In Attendance: Councillor Hussain

**11/14 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Care.

**12/14 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**13/14 Appointment of Vice Chair**

It was reported that Councillor Whitby had been elected as Vice Chair at the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board on 15 July 2014.

**14/14 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

**15/14 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**16/14 Forward Plan**

The Board considered the Forward Plan published on 23 September 2014. Members wanted an opportunity to consider and comment upon the following items:

- Item 25/14 – Early Years Places

**Resolved to recommend that Forward Plan Item 25/14 – Early Years Places be brought to a future meeting of either the Children and Young People Board or the Corporate Parenting Sub Board for consideration and comment.**

**17/14 Adoption Agency Report**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Adoption Agency Report. The report was presented by the Director of Specialist Services.

It was reported that the Children Act 1989, the Adoption Agency Regulations (2011), the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2014 placed duties and responsibilities on local authorities to provide, or arrange to provide an Adoption Service.

Members noted that the report provided adoption performance information on the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and for the first quarter 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014.

It was reported that Derby City Adoption Agency had continued to develop services to meet the needs of children who should be placed for adoption. It was further reported that the Agency also continued to provide services to meet the needs of adults including adoptive parents, birth family members and adopted adults.

Members noted that during 2013 to 2014, 3 children had waited 5 years and over for adoption. Members asked what the likely reasons were in these situations. It was reported that often it was when there was a younger and an older sibling and it became unlikely that they could be adopted together. It was further reported that if they were separated, the younger sibling would often be adopted and the older sibling would enter long term foster care.

Members noted the low numbers of children from other authorities placed with Derby City approved adopters. It was reported that over-recruitment of adopters to create an income stream had been considered but it costs more to train adopters than to get a placement.

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

## 18/14      Adoption Statement of Purpose

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Adoption Statement of Purpose. The report was presented by the Director of Specialist Services.

Members noted that the Adoption Statement of Purpose at Appendix 2 of the report set out the aims and objectives of the Derby City Adoption Service.

It was reported that the information contained in the Statement of Purpose was prescribed in Standard 18 of the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2014. It was further reported that the Statement of Purpose would be regularly reviewed and formally updated as required by the National Minimum Standards.

**Resolved to note and accept the 2014 Adoption Statement of Purpose for publication.**

## 19/14      Children Missing from Care

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Children Missing from Care. The report was presented by the Acting Head of Service - Integrated Services 0–19.

It was reported that children in care were three times more likely to go missing from their home than those who were not in care. It was further reported that the reasons why children ran away were varied, complex and unique to individual children. Members noted that causes could include arguments and conflict, physical and emotional abuse, issues in relation to boundaries and control, poor family relationships and conflict within a placement.

It was reported that the multi-agency Missing Person Monitoring Group (MPMG) met monthly to review all children in care and children where there was cause for concern, who have had a missing episode during the preceding month. It was further reported that representatives included: Derbyshire Constabulary, the Looked After Children's Nurse, Independent Children's Homes, Safe and Sound, Runaways Workers, The Youth Offending Service, Connexions and Derby City Children's Homes. Members noted that the meeting was also an opportunity to discuss issues in relation to the Runaway and Missing from Home or Care protocol, processes, and share good practice.

It was reported that a joint Missing from Care or Home protocol was now implemented that had been developed in partnership by the Council with Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary.

Members asked if there was a seasonal pattern to the numbers of children going missing. It was reported that there were often drops in numbers during the summer holidays and during the approach to Christmas.

Members considered the episodes of children missing from care within the city 2013-14. Members noted that when a young person was found, a Return Interview was carried out within 72 hours. It was reported that the MPMG collated and analysed return interviews in order to identify any recurring issues or 'hot spots'. Members agreed that Integrated Services should also be analysing the Return Interview forms to identify the reasons why young people go missing.

Members agreed that a joint performance surgery should be held with the Derby Safeguarding Children Board on children missing from care. Members felt that this should involve consideration of children placed in Derby from other authorities, who go missing. Members requested that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Board on what had been learnt from Rotherham. Members agreed that an item on Derby children involved in child sexual exploitation be added to the long term work programme.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the update report on children missing from care;**

- 2. to provide dates of the MPMG to the Corporate Parenting Sub Board in order that representatives may, from time to time, attend the monthly meetings;**
- 3. to agree that a joint performance surgery be held with the Derby Safeguarding Children Board on children missing from care;**
- 4. to request that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Board on what had been learnt from Rotherham; and**
- 5. that an item on Derby children involved in child sexual exploitation be added to the long term work programme.**

## **20/14      Children's Homes Development Project: Phase Two**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Children's Homes Development Project: Phase Two. The report was presented by the Interim Head of CIC Regulated Services.

Members noted that a report was presented to the Corporate Parenting Sub Board on 29 April 2014 on phase one of the Children's Homes Development Project. It was reported that this project had reduced capacity by five beds at Moorfield and would reduce by one further bed on completion. It was further reported that the report also described phase two, supported by a further £2.8 million Capital funding and that this would modernise the remaining stock of children's homes and reduce capacity by a further nine beds.

It was reported that phase one, construction of two homes on the Moorfield site, was under way and that contractors, Bowmer and Kirkland, had been on site since June 2014. It was further reported that the project was on schedule for completion in January 2015. Members noted that the demolition of the existing site would then be subject to tendering and was expected to start by May 2015.

Members noted that the table at 4.1 of the report gave further detail of the costs and planned bed reductions of phase one and two.

Members discussed the numbers of children placed in children's homes outside of the city boundary. It was reported that the numbers fluctuated and that those placed in homes outside of the city boundary were placed there because the Council does not have the beds that can meet their needs. Members agreed that whilst the numbers of beds were being reduced within the city, it was important that children with no complex needs could still be catered for within the local authority.

Members discussed and supported the possibility of the Council employing therapeutic foster carers who could look after children with complex needs. It was reported that this had been considered before and would be looked at again with the Council's commissioners.

Members agreed that the Fostering Service should be repackaged and rebranded to create a more professional package to attract more foster carers. It was reported that this had been discussed at the last meeting of the Board and that some work had begun on this.

**Resolved to note the plan, bed reduction and timetable for phase one and two.**

## **21/14      Fostering Service Report**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Fostering Services Report. The report was presented by the Interim Head of CIC Regulated Services.

It was reported that the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services required that the Executive side of the Local Authority:

- a. received written reports on the management, outcomes and financial state of the fostering service every three months;
- b. monitored the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the service was effective and was achieving good outcomes for children; and
- c. satisfy themselves that the provider was complying with the conditions of registration.

It was further reported that the Fostering Agency was required to produce a Statement of Purpose which was updated once a year.

Members noted that the last report, covering the period October 2013 to March 2014 was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board on 29 April 2014 and that this report covered the period April to June 2014.

It was reported that as part of the Council's property rationalisation programme the Fostering and Adoption Service was expected to relocate from its base in Perth Street, Chaddesden, to the third floor of the Council House in October 2014. It was further reported that offices and meeting rooms in Royal Oak House would be used for panels and other events after the move.

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

## **22/14      Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers and Adopters**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers and Adopters. The report was presented by the Director of Specialist Services.

Members received a presentation that gave an overview of performance data on the recruitment and retention of foster carers and adopters and of actions to date to further improve performance in this area.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to note the presentation on performance information and additional activities to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers and adopters;**
- 2. to request that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Board on diagnostics from the Family Values project peer session; and**
- 3. to request a separate website for fostering.**

MINUTES END