

Time commenced – 1.04pm
Time finished – 3.07pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE
20 September 2016**

Present: Councillor Bolton (Chair)
Councillors Roulstone, Whitby

In attendance: Pervez Akhtar – Corporate Parenting Lead
Millie Alder – Participation Apprentice
Gill Black – Volunteering Matters
Graeme Ferguson – Virtual School Head
Andrew Kaiser – Head of Service, Locality 1 & 5
Suanne Lim – Director - Specialist Services
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer

14/16 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Russell and Williams.

15/16 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were none.

16/16 Declarations of Interest

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

17/16 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

18/16 Meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive on Meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee. The report was presented by the Chair.

It was reported that meetings of the Committee had historically started at 1.00pm and that the Chair had agreed to a review of this start time for future meetings following a request from some Members of the Committee.

It was agreed, as a trial, to alternative the start time of future meetings between 1.00pm and 6.00pm. It was also agreed that the next meeting should start at 6.00pm.

Resolved to agree, as a trial, to alternate the start times of future meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee between 1.00pm and 6.00pm.

19/16 Children in Care Council – Update September 2016

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Children in Care Council – Update September 2016. The report was presented by Gill Black – 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 (CICC) should be a standard agenda item. It was further reported that this was to enhance and facilitate the existing working relationship between the Corporate Parenting Committee and the CICC.

The report from the CICC highlighted issues discussed by the CICC during meetings in the previous quarter, guests, participation opportunities, numbers of young people engaging and impact made.

Members considered feedback from the CICC on the Pledge, Children's Homes mini bus, leisure cards and 'take over day'. It was agreed that officers would consider all issues and feedback to the CICC.

Resolved to note the report.

20/16 Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes. The report was presented by the Director – Specialist Services.

It was reported that Children's Homes were regulated and inspected by Ofsted as required by the Care Standards Act 2000. It was also reported that inspections were based on the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and Quality Standards. Members noted that every children's home was inspected at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection.

It was reported that Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 required each home to be visited by an employee of the organisation not directly concerned with the conduct of the home and a report to be written. It was also reported that some visits were carried out by an independent visitor from outside of the Council and that the rest were done by managers in the Children and Young People's Directorate who were completely independent of the homes and had no involvement with young people placed in them.

It was reported that elected Members carried out periodic visits to children's homes to monitor the quality of care and the welfare of children and young people and that visits fall within Members' corporate parenting responsibilities.

Members noted that the report summarised the inspections and reports of visits done since the last report to the Committee on 23 February 2016.

It was reported that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding, Councillor Sara Bolton, had implemented a programme of Member visits for the rest of 2016 supported by a briefing to Members on this role and responsibility.

Resolved to note the report.

21/16 Children's Homes Development Project

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director for People Services on Children's Homes Development Project. The report was presented by the Director – Specialist Services.

Members noted that reports were presented to the Corporate Parenting Sub Board on 7 October 2014 and the Corporate Parenting Committee on 1 December 2015 on the Children's Homes Development Project, which would replace or modernise Derby's stock of children's homes and reduce overall capacity by 15 beds.

It was reported that phase one, construction of two homes on the Moorfield site, was completed in July 2015 and the new homes were known as The Willows and 402 Sinfen Lane. It was also reported that phase two was completed in April 2016 when the employees and young people of 55 Coronation Avenue returned to a newly built home which was officially opened on 29 July 2016.

Members noted that phase three of the development plan would involve refurbishment of 86 Queensferry Gardens and residents and staff relocating to Cricklewood Road in April to allow the works to be completed. It was reported that the contract for the refurbishment was out to tender and contractors were expected to be on-site by November and that work should be completed by the middle of March 2017, ready for occupation in April 2017.

Members noted that phase four, the refurbishment of 19 Cricklewood Road would start in July 2017 and be completed by the end of February 2018, ready for occupation by the end of March 2018. It was reported that the employees and residents of 22 Bute walk would then move in and Bute Walk would close.

It was agreed that a report on how employees were deployed across Children's Homes be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the plan, bed reduction and timetable for phases two, three and four; and**
- 2. to agree that a report on how employees are deployed across Children's Homes be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.**

22/16 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 was presented by the Head of Service, Locality 1 & 5.

Members noted that a report was presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee on 26 July 2016 that provided an overview of progress in relation to practice pertaining to children and young people who go missing.

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 as a result of the Annual Report on Missing Children and Young People for 2015-16.

Members received a presentation on progress over quarter 1 of 2016/17.

Resolved to note progress over quarter 1 relating to children and young people who go missing.

23/16 Provisional KS2 SATs Results for Derby City LAC 2015/16

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Provisional KS2 SATs Results for Derby City LAC 2015/16. The report was presented by the Virtual School Head.

It was reported that in 2016, the new more challenging national curriculum, which was introduced in 2014, was assessed by new tests and interim frameworks for teacher assessment. It was also reported that results were no longer reported as levels and that each pupil received their test results as a scaled score and teacher assessments based on the standards in the interim framework. Members noted that progress data would be released by the DfE in December 2016.

Members received a presentation on the City of Derby KS2 LAC results. Members noted that provisional Key Stage 1 and GCSE attainment results would be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Resolved:

- 1. to recognise the achievement of Derby's children who are looked after;
and**
- 2. to note the changes to the national assessment methodology.**

24/16 Adoption Agency Report

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Adoption Agency Report. The report was presented by Director - 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 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

Resolved to approve the Adoption Agency report.

25/16 Fostering Service Report

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Fostering Service Report. The report was presented by the Director - Specialist Services.

It was reported that the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services require that the executive side of the local authority:

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

(Standard 25.7)

Members noted that the Fostering Agency was required to produce a Statement of Purpose which was updated once a year. Members also noted that the current Statement of Purpose was presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee on 1 December 2015 and that this had been updated and was attached at appendix 3 of the report.

It was also reported that the last annual report, covering the period January 2015 to December 2015 was presented to the Corporate Parenting Committee on 23 February 2016 and that this report covered the period from January to September 2016.

Resolved to approve the Fostering Agency Report.

26/16 Independent Reviewing Service – Annual Report 2015/16

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Independent Reviewing Service – Annual Report 2015/16. The report was presented by the Corporate Parenting Lead.

It was reported that the IRO Handbook 2010 provided the statutory guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers 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 the IRO service completed 1,170 statutory reviews in 2015/16 and that 90.4% of reviews held had been within required timescales. Members also noted that this was just under 5% of the target of 95%.

It was reported that the IRO service had continued to work very hard to ensure children and young people participated in their review. It was also reported that in 2015/16, 97.1% of all reviews had children and young people participating in them and that this was above the target of 96%.

As Councillor Whitby left the room during consideration of this item, the meeting became inquorate.

Resolved to note the report.

27/16 Out of Authority Children Placed in Derby

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of People Services on Out of Authority Children Placed in Derby. The report was presented by the Corporate Parenting Lead.

It was reported that the Children and Young People Department was required to maintain a register of children and young people placed in Derby by other authorities. It was also reported that as part of each local authorities duties they were required under the Arrangements for Placement of Children (General) Regulations 1991 (Regulation 10) to maintain a register of Children Looked After placed in its area, including those children who were the responsibility of another local authority.

Members noted that accurate and up-to-date information about children and young people placed in Derby by other authorities was important for planning purposes as well as taking into account for any resource implications and safeguarding issues. It was reported that there was a requirement to share this information with the Virtual School Head and the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children to assist them in their planning, as well as share this information with the Derby Safeguarding Children Board so they could be assured these vulnerable children were safe.

Resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END