

Time commenced – 1.00pm
Time finished – 3.04pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE
23 February 2016**

Present: Councillor Bolton (Chair)
Councillors Russell and Whitby

In attendance: Paul Robinson – Chief Executive
Janie Berry – Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
Maureen Darbon – Acting Service Director – Early Help and
Children's Safeguarding
Hazel Lymbery – Director of Specialist Services
Rod Jones – Interim Head of CIC Regulated Services
Pervez Akhtar – Corporate Parenting Lead
Suanne Lim – Head of Youth Offending Service
Graeme Ferguson – 14-19 SSIO
Lesley Smales – Designated Nurse for Children in Care
Diane Cook – Volunteering Matters

34/15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Jones.

35/15 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

36/15 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

37/15 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

38/15 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016

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

39/15 Implementing the Pledge for Children in Care

The Committee received a report of the Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Implementing the Children in Care Pledge.

It was reported that the Pledge was a promise made by Derby City Council to all children in its care. It was also reported that the Pledge was part of the Council's commitment to give children in its care the best opportunities they could have in life. Members noted that the Pledge was a commitment about the support and services children in care could expect to receive. Members also noted that all adults who worked for and with the Council were required to make a commitment to work to the Pledge at all times.

It was reported that the new Pledge was accepted and launched at a special Corporate Parenting Committee meeting held in the Council Chamber on 26 January 2016. It was also reported that as part of the launch of the Pledge all Strategic and Service Directors from across the council were invited to attend the Corporate Parenting Committee. It was noted that members of the Children in Care Council presented a presentation about the Pledge.

It was reported that Strategic and Service Directors were asked to give commitments outlining what their departments would do to support the Pledge and in turn exercise the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities for children in care.

Members received an update on commitments to implement the Pledge from each department.

Resolved:

- 1. to accept the commitments made by the departments;**
- 2. to agree the launch and further promotion and implementation of the Pledge;**
- 3. to review progress on commitment implementation by the different directorates in July 2016.**

40/15 Children and Young People Missing from Care

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

The Committee discussed out of area children and young people missing from care and also return interviews.

The Committee agreed that an update be brought to each future meeting.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the progress on the Improvement Plan to reduce the incidences of children and young people who go missing;**
- 2. to endorse plans for future actions and recommendations; and**
- 3. to agree that the Committee receive an update at each future meeting.**

41/15 Looked After Children – Substance Abuse and Youth Offending

The Committee received a report of the Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Looked After Children – Substance Abuse and Youth Offending.

It was reported that children and young people aged 10-17 in contact with Youth Justice System and accessing Youth Offending Services were known to experience poorer health outcomes and consequently had increased complex health needs in comparison to young people in the wider non-offending population. It was also reported that research had well established that this specific cohort of children and young people were associated with higher levels of substance misuse. Members noted that for those who were also Looked After, the complexity increased with the range of additional emotional, social and behavioural challenges brought about through historic abuse and neglect.

Members discussed the possible impact of legal highs.

Resolved to note the content of the report.

42/15 Looked After Children Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Looked After Children Strategy.

It was reported that the Derby Looked After Children's Strategy 2015-2018 outlined the Council aspirations in how it would continue to develop services and meet the needs of the children and young people in its care. It was also reported that the strategy was for three years and aimed to deliver the best outcomes for children and young people in care in Derby.

Members noted that the strategy had been developed by the council and its partners and was underpinned by: the Derby Plan 2013-15, The Council Plan 2015 – 2018 and also supported the Children and Young People's Commissioning Service Plan 2015 – 2016.

The Committee agreed that the strategy should be circulated to all Councillors, Chief Officers and Directors. It was also agreed that the reason for this recommendation was to aid positively promoting the wider circulation of the strategy.

Resolved:

- 1. to accept and sign off the strategy; and**
- 2. to agree that the strategy be circulated to all Councillors, Chief Officers and Directors.**

Councillor Whitby left the room. Following advice from the Democratic Services Officer, the meeting was deemed not to be quorate and that any further resolutions

made by the Committee would need to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

**43/15 Annual Report of the Head of the Virtual School for
Looked After Children for the Academic Year
2014-15**

As the meeting was inquorate, the Committee could not agree the recommendations until the next meeting.

44/15 Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes

As the meeting was inquorate, the Committee could not agree the recommendations until the next meeting.

**45/15 Education Employment and Training of Children in
Care and Care Leavers**

As the meeting was inquorate, the Committee could not agree the recommendations until the next meeting.

46/15 Fostering Service Report

As the meeting was inquorate, the Committee could not agree the recommendations until the next meeting.

MINUTES END