

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8.17pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD 24 SEPTEMBER 2013

Present: Councillor Whitby (Chair)
Councillors Allen, Atwal, Bailey, Bolton, Campbell, S Khan and Williams
and Maurice Lawrence

12/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Brown.

13/13 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

14/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

15/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16/13 Call-in

There were no items.

17/13 Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

The Board received a report on Derby Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Report. The report was presented by the Independent Chair of the Board and the Board manager. It was reported that the Derby Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) was made up of senior people from the key agencies that work with children, young people and their families and that their aim was to ‘work together to keep children and young people in Derby safe from abuse or harm at home and in our communities.’

Members noted that the DSCB had three priority actions for 2012-2013:

1. Analyse the effectiveness of arrangements in place to prevent and respond to domestic violence and its impact on children and young people.
2. Promote consistent and robust Early Intervention arrangements and assess whether local arrangements are improving the safety and positive outcomes for local children and young people.

3. Extend the local information that helps to keep children safe online to the public and professionals with the revision of the DSCB website.

It was reported that work around child sexual exploitation was central to the DSCB and that Derby was recognised for good practice.

Members noted that the DSCB had undertaken two Serious Case Reviews and that it wished to publish the resulting reports as soon as possible, and were only delayed by current legal constraints.

Members discussed the importance of the police and other agencies sharing information, in relation to safeguarding issues.

Members asked what work was being done with parents to combat internet exploitation and cyber bullying. It was reported that the DSCB has undertaken work around child sexual exploitation and shared information and that the DSCB had also carried out sessions in schools with parents. Members noted that when children are learning about the internet in schools, they are also taught about online safety. Members of Voices in Action, who attended the meeting, reported that schools block access to certain websites but there were ways to get around the blocks. The Chair of the DSCB reported that young people do use social media and rather than blocking sites it was more important for them to understand the risks and how to stay safe.

Members of Voices in Action asked what was being done in relation to domestic violence. The Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding, reported that a big development had been the co-location arrangements with the Police. Members noted that two Council officers were now able to look at all referrals and reports of domestic violence where children were involved or lived in the household. This arrangement allowed for an earlier opportunity to talk to other agencies and offer support to families.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation;**
- 2. to consider the DSCB Annual Report;**
- 3. to request that the next DSCB Annual Report be brought before the Board; and**
- 4. to consider how the Children and Young People Board could develop links with the DSCB to ensure that the DSCB is effectively scrutinised in the future.**

18/13 Adoption Update

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Adoption Update. The report was presented by the Acting Director of Specialist Services. The report provided Members with an update on improvement plans for adoption and detailed the current and future plans for 2013-2014.

It was reported that the Council was currently in receipt of an Adoption Reform Grant which was one year funding of £1.108m and that this was part of a national reform programme which included the recruitment and assessment of prospective adopters and the National Gateway for Adoption.

Members noted that an adoption diagnostic assessment was held over the week of 3 June 2013 and was commissioned from Core Assets Consultancy and Resourcing and BAAF utilising the Adoption Reform Grant. It was reported that this was viewed by the service as good preparation for the awaited Ofsted Adoption Inspection during 2013 to 2014.

It was reported that priorities for the diagnostic assessment incorporating an outcomes perspective were:

- timeliness of adoptions;
- Care Planning Process; and
- Post adoption support plans.

Members noted that the findings of the adoption diagnostic assessment informed 10 objectives in respect of delivering improvements in the adoption service:

1. Increase number of adopters.
2. Permanence.
3. Establish robust financial arrangements for permanency options.
4. Locality Teams – joint working.
5. Care Plans.
6. Performance monitoring.
7. Hard to place children – innovative approaches.
8. Workforce learning and development.
9. To enhance post adoption support.
10. Engagement of carers and young people.

Members agreed that a progress report on the 10 objectives should be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Members discussed the difficulties around placing hard to place children, including the use of innovative approaches and the importance of marketing to attract potential adopters. Members agreed that it was better to have any marketing done corporately. Members agreed that a report on marketing to attract adopters be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the contents of the report including work to date and future actions;**
- 2. to request that a progress report on the 10 objectives be brought to a future meeting of the Board; and**
- 3. to request that a report on marketing to attract adopters be brought to a future meeting of the Board.**

19/13 Inspections and Assessments Update

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Inspections and Assessments Update – Children's Services. The report was presented by the Improvement Partner – Children and Young people.

It was reported that in December 2012, Derby's services for the protection of children were inspected by Ofsted and judged to be 'good'. It was further reported that the inspection framework used to assess Derby was an interim framework, in place whilst a new multi-agency framework was developed for child protection and a separate framework for looked after children (to replace the Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection framework). Members noted that plans for the introduction of the two frameworks had since been re-evaluated and a combined framework was scheduled to be introduced in November 2013.

It was reported that a new inspection framework for local authority support of school improvement was also published by Ofsted in June 2013 and Derby had prepared a self-assessment, with supporting evidence log in anticipation of an inspection.

Members noted that alongside responding to and preparing for inspections by Ofsted, Derby was also participating in a regional sector-led improvement programme that would involve a 'peer challenge' in November 2013.

Members expressed concerns about the numbers of Ofsted inspections in terms of the additional strain that they put on resources while the inspections were taking place.

Members noted that one of the areas for improvement listed at Appendix 2 of the report was that Corporate Parenting should consider visiting out of area placements. Members wished it to be noted that the Board had previously made this recommendation but it had not been taken up. Members agreed that the recommendation be explored again.

Resolved:

- 1. to note changes to the inspection frameworks for vulnerable groups to be introduced from November 2013 (Appendix 2);**
- 2. to note current performance on inspections and sector-led improvement preparations and consider further opportunities for Scrutiny involvement and/or challenge; and**
- 3. to recommend that Corporate Parenting visits to out of area placements be explored.**

20/13 Review of 2012/13 and 2013/14 Quarter 1 Performance Report

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Review of 2012/13 and 2013/14 Quarter 1 Performance. The report was presented by the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding.

It was reported that at the end of 2012/13, 66 per cent of all performance measures for Children and Young People's Service achieved target and 66 per cent had improved from 2011/12. It was further reported that there were a total of fourteen performance measures reviewed during 2012/13, of which 11 were discussed at a performance surgery. Members noted that, of the 11 considered at the end of quarter one, two were adrift of target. It was reported that the two measures now had action plans.

In relation to C PM02a To manage sufficiency and promotion of three and four year FREE Early Years Entitlement places to ensure 90% take up in each locality by eligible children, Members noted that Arboretum and Normanton had the lowest overall take up. Members asked what could be done to narrow the gap between those two localities and more affluent areas. It was reported that the Derby City Council Plan provided an opportunity to set out what improvements needed to be made and how they would be achieved.

In relation to SS PM13 (L&I PM24) Percentage of looked after children with a current Personal Education Plan, it was reported that diagnostic work was being undertaken to identify actions for improvements. Members agreed that any actions should be checked after six months to see if improvements had been achieved.

Resolved:

- 1. to review progress against those measures considered through a performance surgery during 2012/13 and highlight measures for further review; and**
- 2. to note performance at the end of June 2013 and to identify any measures for consideration at a performance surgery at the end of quarter two.**

21/13 Protection of Children Update

Resolved to defer the item until the next meeting of the Children and Young People Board.

22/13 Child Poverty Strategy

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy. The report was presented by the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding.

It was reported that the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Areas for Action was a Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships (DCNP) document that was being developed and delivered by the Derby Child and Family Poverty Commission (DCFPC). It was further reported that the strategy comprised a number of key areas for action and supporting work programmes to deliver positive change in each area and that the work programmes were initiated and overseen by the DCFPC and to date had focused on short and medium term interventions.

Members noted that since the adoption of the strategy by the DCNP Leadership Board in June, a number of actions had already been taken and these were outlined in paragraph 4.9 of the report and included the following:

- the introduction of the bulk buy energy scheme;
- the expansion of the food bank donation network in the city;
- a review of affordable banking provision in the city; and
- the development of a Credit Union Development Group.

Members expressed concerns about the setting up of rival food banks to ones that already existed. It was reported that the aim was to try and support or work with the food banks that already existed.

Members felt that the report contained little on the long term area for action, 'breaking the cycle', and agreed that the Head of Policy, Research and Engagement be invited to a future meeting of the Board to provide an update.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Areas for Action;**
- 2. to note the current work programme for each Area for Action;**
- 3. to note the action that has already been taken;**
- 4. to request that the Head of Policy, Research and Engagement be invited to a future meeting of the Board to provide an update on the long term area of action, 'breaking the cycle'; and**
- 5. to request that Members be invited to observe the next meeting of the DCFPC.**

23/13 Forward Plan

An extract of the Council Cabinet Forward Plan including items relating to the board's terms of reference was considered.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

MINUTES END