

Time commenced 1.00pm

Time finished 3:09pm

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 04 April 2023

Present: Councillors Whitby (Chair), Hezelgrave, Kus and Williams

In attendance: Pervez Akhtar, Corporate Parenting Lead
Carrie Bria, Commissioning Manager
Laura Bradley, CiC Council, Participation Officer
Nicola Coombes, Social Worker Kinship Team
Ranjit Dol, Superintendent Derbyshire Police
Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help & Children's Social Care
Heather Peet, Designated Nurse CiC NHS

31/22 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillors Pandey and Pattison, Omar Aslam, Youth Mayor, Pauline Anderson, Graeme Ferguson, Virtual School Headteacher, Director Learning, Inclusion and Skills, Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services, Marlene Upchurch, Chair of Parent Foster Carers.

32/22 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were none.

33/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Whitby declared he was a Foster Carer for Derby City Council and a member of the Adoption East Midlands Panel.

34/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023 were agreed as a correct record. The following resolutions were outstanding.

Item 26/22 – To write to the school from the reported case study to request an explanation of their decision regarding a Derby LAC pupil.

It was explained that the Cabinet Member for CYP would write with input from the Virtual Head.

Item 29/22 – Recommendation 3 “To strongly recommend that the Derby City Council Leadership, The Corporate Leadership Team, and Partner Organisations undertake a new push to develop opportunities of all sorts for care leavers to include apprenticeships, traineeships, work experience and shadowing.

The Director for Early Help and Children's Social Care explained that Apprenticeships are being provided but care leavers are not wanting to be matched. The Council does have links to business partnerships so opportunities can be provided to care leavers if identified.

35/22 Children in Care Council (CiCC) Update

The Committee received a report from the Director of Integrated Commissioning. The report was presented by the CiC Participation Officer (PO) and provided a summary of participation activities over the last quarter of the Children in Care Council. The report ensured that the Committee was sighted on activity and enabled them to set direction where needed.

The Committee noted that the February report to the Committee had been deferred to this meeting. The activities of the CiC from the February report were spotlighted by the PO.

The focus of the December meeting was the name change of the CiC Council; more detail would be provided in the report from April. The PO highlighted the need for cross service support in the implementation and running of Local Authority CiCs. In Derby barriers were experienced around engagement and participation with CiC. CiC Councils in other LAs operate in a range of different ways. The current way of working in Derby was being developed and different methods of working were being trialled through 2023.

The PO drew attention to the National Children's Bureau report into good practice for CiC Councils and highlighted points to consider supporting quality consultation, examples included:

- Rewarding children for involvement in the CiC Council
- Recognising the work of the CiC members to ensure they know it makes a difference
- CiC Councils work better with a defined purpose and clear areas of responsibility

The PO sought support from the committee to develop a working group of relevant managers and staff involved in co-ordination and delivery of services to CiC to help and steer the CiC Council by using their experience and knowledge to improve methods of participation with the LA.

A Christmas Card competition had been run with the help of the Creative Design Officer in the Communications and Marketing Team. The competition was a success, the winning artwork could be seen at Appendix 3 of the report, it was featured on a card sent from the Strategic Director of Peoples Services and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

The Regional CiC Council Residential Event at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire, 15-16 October. DCC was represented by one young person and a social work. More detail of the event and a presentation would be provided in a presentation to follow.

The PO presented the April report of the CiC Council. There had been two meetings of the CiC, since the previous report, they were in January and March. At the January meeting the focus was on the Budget Consultation and a vote on the choice of name for the CiC Council.

The March meeting was used to review progress on the Children's Guide for Fostering. The meeting was in collaboration with Plus One and was held at the Derby Theatre. It included attendance from the DANCOT Workshop as part of their cultural enrichment.

The PO described the process of choosing a new name for the CiC Council. In January 2023 a poll was created and sent out to all CiC. The poll included 7 potential names. The winning name chosen by young people was "Our Vision, Our Success". The PO asked for approval from the Committee to proceed with using the chosen name for the CiC Council in the future.

It was planned to reintroduce a newsletter for CiC Council, the newsletter will provide an opportunity to promote the CiC Council and its work, it would give ownership to members involved who would be given roles of Editor, Journalist etc. Sessions are planned with the Communications and Marketing Team to help with preparation, design, and production of the newsletter.

The PO reported on School Participation which continues with termly meetings of agreed groups of CiC at the West Park and Woodlands School. The PO would like to create a Cluster event/ambassador model for schools to come together in a group meeting. This would give more opportunity and different formats to get young people to engage in participation work. The PO had linked with several schools and the Virtual Head of Looked after Children (LAC) for advice and support to set this up. The proposal of a Cluster Event was agreed by the Committee.

The PO highlighted the work undertaken on the Residential Home Guide given to young people when they move into a home. The PO had sent information to DCC Residential Homes about a consultation and requested exploration of young people's views on the document. The PO planned to visit the homes with examples of formats and information in response to the feedback from young people.

The Care Leavers update included the location of new flats for Care Leavers which will need consultation work regarding the naming of the area. The PO would provide resources like surveys, polls and if invited would attend forums to gain the views of young people and ensure their experiences and views form a part of the development.

The committee received a presentation about the Regional CiC Council Residential Event at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire, 15-16 October. The presentation was given by the young person, the social worker and the PO who had attended. The focus of the event was on the language used within services and included activities and relationship building opportunities followed by findings being presented to Senior Leaders from local authorities across the region.

The young person, social worker and PO were thanked and congratulated by the Committee for all the work they had undertaken especially in relation to the Residential Event. The Committee felt it was an important piece of work and the outcomes around use of language and terminology should be recognised by the service.

The Committee noted the report and presentation and agreed

- 1. The name change from "Children in Care Council" to "Our Vision, Our Success"**
- 2. That CiC should have access to apprenticeships/traineeships**
- 3. That the proposed Cluster Event should go ahead**
- 4. That the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care work with the CiC Participation Officer to ensure that the issue of use of language and terminology relating to CiC was recognised and understood by staff.**

36/22 Annual Health Report

The Committee received a report of the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care. The report was presented by the Designated Nurse (DN) for LAC. The report provided the Committee with a brief overview of the progress, challenges, opportunities, and plans to support and improve the health of looked after children that DCC are responsible for wherever they live. The report also shows how DCC look after children placed in Derby by other local authorities.

The DN explained that "Markers of Good Practice" show how the service delivers against the Statutory Framework. The CCG were assured that the CiC Service provision was overall at a good standard and the Health Provider was working in partnership in all areas identified as needing further progression or improvement.

The DN spotlighted aspects of the Annual Report 2021-22

- The performance for Annual Health Assessments in year 2021 was 92.6%, the target was 90%. However, there was a slight drop in assessments for the under-fives.
- Derby's completion of dental checks has increased slightly during 2021-22 to 77%, the target for 2021-22 was 92%.
- Immunisations up to date completion was 94.1%, the target for 2021-22 was 92%.
- Since the CiC Team have had access to Liquid Logic (LA IT System) and the ability to update data, the accuracy of health data and sharing of information has improved significantly.
- There has been an improvement in compliance with Initial Healthcare Assessments IHAs.
- Foster carer sessions have continued virtually over 2021-22. Some of the topics covered included, emotional wellbeing, minor ailments, behaviour, and physical exercise.
- The CiC Team applied successfully for Sexual Health Community Funding. The funding was used to develop a training/resource pack to educate and support foster carers and residential children care workers to help children and young people with their sexual health.
- There was now access to Integrated Clinical Environment (ICE) to enable request for bloods processing.
- There were links into Children's Homes for health promotion work.
- An electronic feedback form had been developed.

The DN updated the Committee on the CiC Team. It was highlighted that administration hours had been increased. Staff had been upskilled and training had taken place. Adaptions and changes were still ongoing post Covid. There was a continuation of foster carer support and learning and there was more diversity within the Nursing Team which now included nurses with backgrounds in schools, mental health and learning difficulties. There was also a Sleep Practitioner within the team.

The risks and concerns were described by the DN, they included

- A continued issue with dental "home" (registration) but routine access was improving
- On-going work around timely consents
- Children placed out of area which affected statutory compliance
- There were competing demands for the health such as IHAs and Adoption work
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children and their additional health needs
- Building relationships with leaving care team to improve support around transition for care experienced young people
- Children not brought to health assessments, work was on-going

The committee asked if CiC had a face-to-face health assessment within a year of coming into care, the DN confirmed they did. They also asked about dental appointments for CiC querying whether they were placed at the top of the list. The DN explained that most dentists do not have to provide NHS Care and/or have open NHS registration, but there are 11 practices in Derby City aligned to NHS work. CiC are a priority group, but not all dentists have open waiting lists at the time of asking. The Public Health team are looking at going to schools to deliver dentistry advice such as how to use toothbrushes. The Committee asked about immunisations and were interested to know if there were young people with a lack of vaccinations. The DN explained there was diversity due to the areas young people were arriving from, but they were all offered a programme of vaccinations. The Committee were also concerned about consent to see records. The DN explained that there was liaison with GP Surgeries and records were retrospectively updated to allow access as appropriate. Young people taken to surgeries were asked by GPs whether the social worker could be allowed access to their information.

The Committee considered the report and thanked the Designated Nurse and team for all their work.

37/22 Update Report on Integrated LAC Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service

The Committee received a report of the Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning. The report was presented by the Commissioning Manager and provided an update to the Committee on the performance of the Emotional Health & Wellbeing Service for Children in Care and Care Leavers (also named the DECC by service users) contract.

The service provides the following interventions as an integral part of the city's response to support children in care, care leavers, their families, carers, and professionals:

- Direct Trauma Work
- Wrap around intervention – to support step down for children and young people in care
- Attachment interventions
- Consultations – a series of 6 or one-off bookable consultations covering issues like harmful sexual behaviour
- Reflective practice -regular sessions to DCC internal residential homes and leaver care teams
- Joint complex care planning

An extension to the contract was agreed by the DCC Peoples Services Leadership Team on 23rd February 2023. Action for Children are the providers. Derbyshire County Council and Derby & Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (DDICB) also have individual contracts for this provision alongside DCC. A formal partnership agreement with both Derbyshire CC and DDICB is planned to be put in place.

The officer reported that referrals by DCC Children's Social Care teams have increased steadily over the last 12 months due to improved communication and clarity on the service offer. Performance data Information from Quarters 1 to 3 was highlighted by the officer, but Quarter 4 performance detail would not be available until mid-April 2023.

- **Attachment Group for carers** – there had been 6 Groups in the last financial year. Attachment Parenting Groups are aimed at foster carers. Specialist SGO groups are also planned. The service was on track to meet target. Referrals for the group are open to both Derby and Derbyshire so there could be a mix of carers from each local authority. The aim was to deliver in different locations across the county to allow access.
- **Reflective practice** - 220 sessions, 20-23 teams receiving 11 three-hour sessions per year. Close to target (84%) there was a shortfall as some groups not being possible due to homes not being operational. In the two Derby City homes that were operational there were several challenges in trying to get the monthly groups and consultations established, these included cancellations, staff rotas and availability, and information sharing.
- **Residential** - 110 consultations, 10 residential homes, each receiving 90-minute consultation slot per month in addition to their Reflective Practice time, delivered by same person. Close to target (86%) the shortfall was due to consultations linked to RP groups that weren't operational. 17 sessions were offered to Derby City residential homes, but a significant number were cancelled.

- **Leaving Care** - No target was set; delivery was for Derbyshire only. The original Derby city resource for leaving care RP and consultation did not include Leaving Care, however this is being revised for 2023-24 with residential home resource being redirected to the leaving care service.
- **One off bookable** - 90-minute consultation sessions for children's carers and professionals involved in their lives. A write up of recommendations was provided. Close to target (95%) – shortfall due to service vacancies throughout the year and new staff requiring shadowing.
- **Training Days** - Programme of Training days, 19 delivered, topics specific to service population. Targeted at foster carers, residential workers, and social workers. Approx 20-30 participants per training day. Exceeding Target.

The officer gave an overall update on DECC performance. DECC had been embedded over the past 3 years, it started from a difficult position with challenges around recruiting staff, and improvement was still needed going forward. DECC provide training and consultation work, Reflective Practice and direct work with children and young people. The waiting list works on priority of need, but most referrals are processed within 0 to 3 months.

A councillor asked if all the work being done by the service had reduced the demand on the Children and Adults Mental Health Service (CAMHS). It was explained that the number of young people accessing the service was not large as some referrals would be more appropriate for CAMHS.

The Committee noted the report including the performance management information and that the contract had been extended by DCC, Derbyshire CC, and the DDICB

38/22 National review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential setting - Update report

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Peoples Services which was presented by the Deputy Head of Service Children's Quality Assurance.

It was reported that in January 2022 the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel began a national child safeguarding practice review into events at three privately provided Residential Specialist Schools Registered as Children's Homes operating in the Doncaster area. Between March and May 2021, Doncaster Children's Services focused on safeguarding the 60 children and young adults who lived in the settings at the time of the allegations.

The review period was January 2018 to March 2021. Evidence from Operation Lemur Alpha investigation and analysis showed that children placed in the children's residential settings in Doncaster experienced sustained, significant abuse and harm over an extended period. The voices of the children and young adults were not heard.

The Panel identified that as part of the national review that there was a need for additional assurance about the safety and well-being of children living in similar types of placements. The Panel requested several urgent actions from Directors of Children's Services (DCSs).

Urgent Action 1 - Directors of Children's Services are to ensure that Quality and Safety Reviews are completed for all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living within placements with the same registrations (i.e., residential specialist schools registered as children's homes) to ensure they are in safe, quality placements.

- This action should be overseen by the local authority who placed the children

- DCSs should provide an overview report on key findings and issues to their corporate parenting Board and to local safeguarding partners with assurance that the Quality and Safety Reviews have been completed.
- DCSs should send a copy of the overview report to the relevant DfE regional improvement support lead.

Urgent Action 2 - In relation to children with disabilities and complex health needs who are looked after children and who are currently placed in residential specialist schools which are registered as children's homes, all Directors of Children's Services should ensure:

- DCSs should ensure that the host authority LADO for each individual establishment review all information on any LADO referrals, complaints or concerns over the last 3 years relating to staff to ensure these have been actioned.
- The host authority LADO should contact any LAs who have children placed in their area if there are outstanding enquiries about staff employed in the home.

The Deputy Head of Service Children's Quality Assurance gave an overview of the work undertaken in Derby by the Independent Reviewing Officers. In Derby there were 6 young people identified as meeting the criteria for Quality and Safety Reviews. Four of the six children were placed in Staffordshire, two in the same setting. There was one young person placed in Scotland and another in Wales.

Quality and Safety Reviews were completed for all young people during September and October 2022. The reviews took place in the young person's residential establishment. They included input from all key professionals, educational and residential staff, the virtual school service, health staff, parents, and carers. Each young person was seen individually by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and their room and educational setting were also seen.

There was one young person (yp) with concerns, and it was planned to move this yp to a placement in England. The officer confirmed the yp was now placed in Derby.

The officer highlighted some of the recommendations of Derby's overview report of the Quality and Safety Reviews undertaken:

- The IROs would continue to undertake the expanded reviews as the additional processes and level of detail were helpful for residential specialist school placements.
- Wherever possible every effort should be made to place young people with complex needs as close as possible to the home authority.
- Statutory visiting timescales are 12 weekly visits but given the nature of placements and vulnerabilities of young people statutory visits should remain at 6 weekly intervals. The reviews should be face to face.

The committee thanked the Deputy Head of Service Children's Quality Assurance and the IRO Team for their work.

The Committee considered and noted the content of the report and practice assurance.

MINUTES END