

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.28pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD 3 DECEMBER 2013

Present: Councillor Bailey (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Bolton, Hillier, Whitby and Williams

27/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen and Campbell.

28/13 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

29/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

31/13 Housing and Use of Bed and Breakfast for Children in Care and Care Leavers

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Housing and Use of Bed and Breakfast for Children in Care and Care Leavers. The report, presented by the Housing Advice Manager, covered a range of issues such as the success of Nightstop in other cities. Members noted that Nightstop involved individuals volunteering to host young people in their homes. The Board learned that a framework was being developed which would provide better accommodation for young people and therefore make future use of bed and breakfast accommodation redundant. Members agreed that the Council should work towards zero use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation;**
- 2. to request that a report on the new transitional arrangements be brought to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board; and**
- 3. to recommend that the Council works towards zero use of bed and breakfast for children in care and care leavers as this type of accommodation is unsuitable for young people.**

32/13 Update on the Care Leavers Charter and Support to Care Leavers in Higher Education

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Update on Care Leavers Charter and Support to Care Leavers in Higher Education. The report was presented by the Service Manager – Leaving Care.

It was reported that care leavers entering higher education before the age of 25 were entitled to a one off bursary of £2000 and that this would normally be paid in three instalments over three years. Members noted that most young people in higher education were not entitled to claim benefits.

It was reported that in the current academic year the maximum maintenance loans that could be paid was £7260, which covered costs over the academic year and excluded the 12 week summer vacation period. It was further reported that in some circumstances young people returned to stay with former foster-carers during the summer vacation period and that some institutions offered care leavers 52 week accommodation.

Members noted that additional support for young people in further/higher education included help with clothes for interviews and work placements and fares to get to interviews and work placements. Members asked whether there was any provision for some form of IT. It was reported that this depended on the course.

Members agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board should meet with the University of Derby to discuss support for care leavers and increase the numbers attending university locally.

Members were also provided with an update on the Care Leavers Charter in respect to how the principles were being implemented operationally in the Leaving Care Service.

Resolved:

- 1. that the Charter as a driver ensures that Care Leavers are a visible priority group in relevant service areas;**
- 2. that the principles of the Charter continue to be developed in the day to day operational practice of the Leaving Care Service;**
- 3. to note the current arrangement for financially supporting care leavers in higher education; and**
- 4. to request that the Chair and the Vice Chair meet with the University of Derby to discuss support for care leavers and increase the numbers attending university locally.**

33/13 Educational Results for Children and Care

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on 2013 KS2 SATs and KS4 GCSE Results for Children in Care.

Members discussed the Looked after Child (LAC) Review and the Personal Education Plan (PEP) Review and agreed that they should be aligned to minimise duplication and achieve good outcomes for children.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. to recommend that the Looked After Child (LAC) Review and the Personal Education Plan (PEP) Review be aligned to minimise duplication and achieve good outcomes for children;**
- 3. to request that an update on aligning the LAC Review and the PEP Review be brought to the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board; and**
- 4. to congratulate the Social Development and Inclusion team for their enthusiasm and hard work.**

34/13 Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention

Resolved to defer the item until the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board.

MINUTES END