

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.25pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD
20 AUGUST 2013**

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

In Attendance: Councillor Rawson

15/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Williams.

16/13 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

17/13 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bailey, Bolton and S Khan wished it to be noted that they were Members of the Planning Control Committee and although they were present for the presentation at 26/13, they took no part in the discussion.

18/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**19/13 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy – Annual Report
2012/13**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy – Annual Report 2012/13. The report was presented by the Head of Children's Quality Assurance.

Members asked what lessons had been learnt from 'Operation Kern'. Members noted that some lessons had already been learnt from the earlier 'Operation Retriever'. It was reported that the prosecutions under 'Operation Kern' had shown the effectiveness of multi-agency work around exploitation. It was further reported that strong work was being carried out around intervention at an earlier stage and that this had been the principal lesson from 'Operation Retriever'.

Members asked whether there were any future work plans that specifically related to children in care. It was reported that all of the actions in the annual report applied equally to children in care.

Resolved to note the report.

20/13 Children Missing From Care

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Children Missing from Care. The report was presented by the Multi- Agency Team Manager. It was reported that the local authority had a duty to ensure that all children who were reported as missing from either their homes or care were monitored to ensure that the appropriate support service was in place to support parents and children when these episodes occurred.

Members noted that to ensure that the local authority was meeting its legal obligations as well as all current Ofsted and safeguarding requirements, a group of professionals had been established to monitor the planned interventions for missing children. It was reported that there was a monthly meeting of the group to review all children who had been reported missing to Derbyshire police during the preceding month. It was further reported that at the multi-agency meeting, every child was discussed and risk assessed.

A city wide protocol for all agencies, to ensure that all children who go missing from either home or care would have their needs met, was circulated to the Board. Members noted that the protocol was in three parts:

1. children and young people who go missing from their parents or carers or from foster carers and residential children's homes;
2. those who go missing with their parents or carers; and
3. the role of the Missing Children's Monitoring Group.

Members discussed how long children go missing for and noted that the timescale started once a child had been reported missing to the police. Members considered the numbers of children going missing from Derby City Council homes, foster care and independent children's homes from January 2013 to June 2013 and it was reported that the figures might show the same child going missing more than once. It was confirmed that the response to a child going missing was the same for all three categories.

Members discussed the risk assessments and reviews carried out for children who were placed outside of the city area.

Members requested that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Board that showed more historic data on the numbers of children going missing so that a comparison could be made with current data.

Resolved:

- 1. to note that Members of the Board shall be invited to attend one of the meetings to see the work that takes place within our agencies to ensure children who go missing are located and preventative work is planned to help reduce future missing episodes;**
- 2. to examine on-going data regarding missing children to ensure that all children receive the appropriate service; and**
- 3. to request that a report that shows more historic data on the numbers of children going missing be brought to a future meeting of the Board**

21/13 Children in Care Council – Work Programme

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources on Children in Care Council – Work Programme. Members of the Children in Care Council attended the meeting to present Members with an update on the Pledge and the work of the Children in Care Council.

It was reported that a lot of work was being done to promote the pledge and that all children in care had received a copy of it.

Members received an update on recent projects that the Children in Care Council had been involved in, such as the consultation for the Moorfields development and the design of a children's rights leaflet at an event at Derby Quad.

Members noted that the Children in Care Council would be setting their priorities in September.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report; and**
- 2. to thank the Children in Care Council for all the work that they do.**

22/13 Children in Care – Annual Performance Report 2012/13

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Children in Care – Annual Performance Report 2012/13. The report was presented by the Improvement Partner – Children and Young People. It was reported that at the end of March 2013 there was a total of 465 looked after children in Derby and that, overall, the total number of looked after children had reduced throughout 2012/13 with a fall of 3 per cent (from 480) by the end of the year compared to March 2012. It was further reported that the trend had continued into the first quarter of 2013/14, with a drop to 462 at the end of June 2013.

Members noted that the profile of looked after children remained consistent with the position reported at the end of 2011/12, with the largest proportion of children in care being aged 10 years and over, White – British, male and just under half (44 per cent) had been in care for less than two years.

Members were pleased to see that there had been an improvement in the percentage of looked after children who had their statutory health needs met. It was reported that this area would remain a priority.

Members asked what work was being done to address areas of underperformance identified within the report. It was reported that all areas of concern were being looked at and action plans were in place.

Members noted the percentage of looked after children with a personal education plan and discussed what the target should be set at.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the 2012/13 performance results relating to looked after children;**
- 2. to consider how the performance information aligns to the 2013/14 forward plan for Corporate parenting, and consider how to address any gaps highlighted in Appendix 3; and**
- 3. to note the performance update on health assessments for looked after children set out in paragraphs 5.5, 5.6 and in Appendix 3.**

23/13 Foster Carer Association

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Resources on Foster Carer Association. The report was presented by the Chair of Derby's Foster Carer Association. Members were updated on the work of the Foster Carer Association and their plans to take the group forward over the next three years.

It was reported that the association had a committee of six people and each person had committed to serve for three years. It was further reported that blanket membership would soon be offered to all foster carers.

Members noted that a website was due to be launched in September and it would have links to both Facebook and Twitter. It was reported that there were plans to provide support services and activities to children of foster carers and also set up a men's group. It was further reported that a newsletter would be launched in January and one would be published in each school term.

Resolved to note the report.

24/13 Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers. The report was presented by the Head of Children in Care. Members were given an overview of quarter one data on the recruitment and retention of foster carers and of actions to date to further improve performance in this area.

It was reported that approval had been given to recruit a marketing specialist for two days a week from August 2013 to December 2013 and that this was with the specific aim to deliver:

- a two year marketing strategy profiling the benefits and opportunities of becoming a foster carer or adopter for Derby;
- a clear plan for revisions to Derby City Council's website using local carer input and real examples;
- immediate revisions to Derby City Council's website to improve information and access;
- production of information pack for foster carers and adopters using input from local carers; and
- position statement at December 2013 with options appraisal for taking forward a campaign.

Members noted that a turn the curve workshop was held on 2 August 2013 to create a performance framework to capture the recruitment and approval process of adopters for Derby. Members requested that the results and analysis of the workshop be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

Members considered foster carer recruitment analysis based on enquiries made by members of the public between 1 April and 30 June 2013. It was reported that 45 per cent of enquiries resulted in no further action but Members were assured that those who received fostering information packs were actively pursued.

Members were interested to see the age profile of foster carers and were encouraged to see that young people were registered. It was confirmed that there was not an upper age limit.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the performance information and additional activities to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers; and**
- 2. to request that the results and analysis of the turn the curve workshop be brought to the next meeting of the Board.**

25/13 Fostering Agency Report

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Fostering Agency Report. The report was presented by the Head of Children in Care. It was reported that the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services required that the executive side of the local authority:

- receive written reports on the management, outcomes and financial state of the Fostering Services every three months;

- monitor and manage the outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the service is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children; and
- satisfy themselves that the provider is complying with the conditions of registration.

The Board considered the report that covered the period January to March 2013.

Resolved to approve the Fostering Agency report.

26/13 Moorfields – Development Outcomes from Consultation

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Moorfields – Development: Outcomes from Consultation. The report was presented by the Head of Children in Care. Member received a presentation that gave an overview of the findings from the consultation that had taken place on the redevelopment of the Moorfield site and in particular the design of the two new children's homes.

It was reported that the consultation had been carried out between May and July 2013 and that consultees had included young people at Moorfield, the Children in Care Council and staff at Moorfield. Members noted that feedback had been overwhelmingly positive.

It was reported that the intention was to create children's homes with a family environment and it was hoped the project would be completed by January 2015.

Resolved to note the presentation.

MINUTES END