

Time commenced – 6.02pm
Time finished – 8.32pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD
10 March 2015

Present: Councillor Williams (Chair)
Councillors Care, Eldret, Hezelgrave, Keith, Nawaz and Whitby

In Attendance: Councillor Hussain

42/14 Apologies

There were none.

43/14 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

44/14 Declarations of Interest

The Chair wished it to be noted that, in relation to 49/14 - Looked After Children (LAC) in temporary accommodation (including B&B), she was employed by the YMCA.

45/14 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

46/14 Forward Plan

The Board considered the Forward Plan published on 17 February 2015.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

47/14 Annual Report of the Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children for the academic year 2013-2014

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Annual Report of the Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children for the academic year 2013 - 2014. The report was presented by the Service Director – Learning and Inclusion Services.

It was reported that Derby's Looked After Children (LAC) population had greater barriers to overcome than LAC nationally and that this was concluded by analysing the percentage of LAC with special educational needs, and also analysis of average

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire scores for the eligible cohort. It was further reported that both of these indicators were higher than the national average (2013/14):

- Looked after children with special educational needs - Derby result of 70.4% versus a national average of 66.6%.
- Average score for strengths and difficulties questionnaire - Derby result of 16.3 versus a national average score of 13.9.

Members noted that 2014 standards at Key Stage 1 (KS1) in each of reading, writing and mathematics at Level 2+ were improving faster for Derby's LAC than nationally and were in line or better than national in reading and writing and only 1% point behind national in mathematics. Members also noted that this compared to mathematics being 4% points behind national in 2012.

It was reported that 2014 standards at Key Stage 2 (KS2) were below national, but were improving at a faster rate than nationally in each of reading and mathematics at Level 4+ when outcomes were examined between 2012 and 2014. It was further reported that standards at Level 4+ in reading, writing and mathematics combined were improving in line with national during the same time period. Members noted that this trend of rapid improvement needed to continue if standards for Derby's KS2 LAC were to reach national averages for 11 year old looked after children. Members also noted that the progress which Derby's LAC made between the end of Key Stage 1 and when they took their tests at the end of Key Stage 2 in reading and writing was better than that found nationally, but slightly lower in mathematics.

It was reported that GCSE standards were higher than national for Derby's LAC at 5 passes at grades A*-C and 5 passes at grades A*-C including English and mathematics. It was further reported that, similarly, KS4 students made better progress than LAC students nationally in both English and mathematics.

Members agreed that an early years priorities and additional needs improvements report to be brought to a September meeting of the Board.

Members discussed the Personal Education Plan (PEP) figures and ePEP's and agreed that a report to be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Members noted that alternative educational packages had supported young people to access education appropriate to their needs. Members agreed that the annual report should emphasis other attainments, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Members discussed careers advice for Looked After Children and agreed that a report should be brought to a future meeting of the Board on the Government's Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) strategy.

Members agreed that the annual report should highlight the good points and what was working well.

Resolved:

- 1. to recognise the achievement of Derby's children who are looked after;**
- 2. to support the areas for development as highlighted within paragraph 1.5 of the report;**
- 3. to request that an early years priorities and additional needs improvements report to be brought to a September meeting of the Board;**
- 4. to request that a report on Personal Education Plan (PEP) figures and ePEP's be brought to a future meeting of the Board.**
- 5. to request that the annual report should emphasis other attainments, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.**
- 6. to request that a report should be brought to a future meeting of the Board on the Government's Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) strategy, in relation to Looked After Children; and**
- 7. to request that the annual report highlights the good points and what was working well.**

48/14 Foster Carer Recruitment

The board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Foster Carer Recruitment. The report and a presentation was presented by the Director of Specialist Services. The presentation detailed the current actions in place to increase the number of Derby City Council foster carers. Attached at Appendix 2 of the report was the marketing action plan for January to March 2015.

Members recognised the importance of increasing the referral rate and agreed the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people should look into this.

Members discussed the need for foster care to be seen as a profession and agreed that the Council should develop a professional foster carer support package presented in a more vocational way, promoting foster care as a profession and highlighting the support package offered.

Members agreed that an update report should be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Members felt that Neighbourhood teams and Co-ordinators should be promoting foster carer recruitment through community groups and local events.

Members agreed that local businesses should be targeted to identify potential foster carers amongst staff either retiring or being made redundant and that information on foster caring should be provided at exit interviews for staff leaving the Council.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation, detailing the activities and actions in relation to foster carer recruitment;**
- 2. to request that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people should look into increasing the referral rate;**

3. to request that the Council develops a professional foster carer support package presented in a more vocational way, promoting foster care as a profession and highlighting the support package offered;
4. to request that an update report should be brought to a future meeting of the Board;
5. to request that the Neighbourhood teams and Co-ordinators promote foster carer recruitment through community groups and local events;
6. to request that local businesses be targeted to identify potential foster carers amongst staff either retiring or being made redundant; and
7. to request that information on foster caring is provided at exit interviews for staff leaving the Council.

49/14 Looked After Children (LAC) in temporary accommodation (including B&B)

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Looked After Children (LAC) in temporary accommodation (including B&B). The report and a presentation was presented by the head of Youth Offending Service. The presentation outlined the current framework for accessing housing related support and the use of bed and breakfast with specific reference to children in care.

It was reported that there were three types of placement package: core, enhanced and complex and that currently, six providers were part of the framework. Members discussed quality of service provided and noted that quality was a key element to getting on the framework.

It was reported that B&B's were only used as a last resort and required director authorisation.

Members agreed that an update report on the housing framework outcomes should be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

1. to note the presentation; and
2. to request that an update report on the housing framework outcomes be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

50/14 Review of Regional Framework for External Placements

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Review of Regional Framework for External Placements. The report was presented by the Director of Commissioning. The report provided an overview of the changes regarding the East Midlands Regional framework, which was the principle mechanism for sourcing placements for children where there was no identified in-house provision that met the child's needs.

It was reported that the framework was due to end in November 2015, and a review of its effectiveness had been undertaken. It was further reported that the number of placements Derby was sourcing externally had increased, which was impacting the overall cost of placements. Members noted that a flexible approach to sourcing may enable Derby to achieve better value for money.

Members noted that six out of the nine local authorities used the framework and asked what the other three did. It was reported that the authorities that didn't use the framework were bigger authorities.

Members discussed residential therapeutic units and noted the lack of them in Derby and Derbyshire and the lack of training opportunities for foster carers to become therapeutic foster carers.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the content of this report; and**
- 2. to support the consideration of a range of options for sourcing, including a revised framework for schools and specialist options, including the allocation of funding to develop therapeutic foster care.**

51/14 Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes. The report was presented by the Head of CIC Regulated Services.

It was reported that Children's Homes were regulated and inspected by Ofsted as required by the Care Standards Act 2000 and that inspections were based on the Children's Homes Regulations 2011, Children's Homes: National Minimum Standards and the Children Act 1989, Regulations and Guidance, Volume 5, children's homes. Members noted that every children's home was inspected at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection.

It was reported that at a full inspection, inspectors would make judgements on overall effectiveness, outcomes for children, quality of care, safeguarding and leadership and management. It was further reported that they would judge the home according to a four point scale: an inadequate service does not meet minimum requirements; an adequate service only meets minimum requirements; a good service is of high quality and exceeds minimum requirements; an outstanding service is of exceptional quality and significantly exceeds minimum requirements.

It was reported that Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 required each home to be visited by an employee of the organisation not directly concerned with the conduct of the home and a report to be written. It was further reported that new regulations introduced in 2014 required more independence and impartiality on the part of the visitor than previously. Members noted that as a result some visits were now carried out by an independent regulation 33 visitor and that the rest were still done by managers in the CYP Directorate who were completely

independent of the Homes and had no involvement with young people placed in them.

It was reported that in the last three months of 2014, 23 out of a possible 24 management visits had been completed and that no serious concerns had been raised. It was further reported that the reporting template and guidance had been changed to comply with new guidance and regulations and that this had resulted in an improvement in the quality and depth of reports

It was reported that Elected Members carried out periodic visits to children's homes to monitor the quality of care and the welfare of children and young people and that visits fell within members' corporate parenting responsibilities. It was reported that after each visit Members reported on their observations and recommendations and that Members were informed of actions taken as a result.

Members agreed that details of any required improvements should be included in any future reports on the inspection and monitoring of children's homes. Members also agreed that any future reports should also include what was being done well.

Members wished to thank staff in children's homes for all their hard work.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. to request that details of any required improvements be included in any future reports on the inspection and monitoring of children's homes;**
- 3. to request that any future reports include what was being done well; and**
- 4. to thank staff in children's homes for all their hard work.**

MINUTES END