

Time commenced – 6.03pm
Time finished – 8.15pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD
14 April 2015

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

In Attendance: Councillor Hussain

52/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Keith and Nawaz.

53/14 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

54/14 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

55/14 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

56/14 Forward Plan

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

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

57/14 Fostering Service report

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Fostering Service Report. The report was presented by the Interim Head of CIC Regulated Services.

It was reported that the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services (Standard 25.7) required that the executive side of the local authority:

- a. Receive written reports on the management, outcomes and financial state of the fostering service every three months;
- b. Monitor the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the service is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children;

- c. Satisfy themselves that the provider is complying with the conditions of registration.

It was further reported that the Fostering Agency was required to produce a Statement of Purpose which was updated once a year.

Members noted that the last report, covering the period July to September 2014 was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board on 20 January 2015 and that this report covered the period October to December 2014.

It was reported that the membership of the fostering panel complied with Guidance and Regulations and National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services and consisted of an independent chair and vice-chair, an elected member, a qualified social worker, a health service representative, a foster carer and fostering social worker, a care-experienced young person and other independent members with relevant experience. It was further reported that the panel was supported by a professional advisor and also had access to medical and legal advice as required. Members noted that the Agency Decision Maker was the Head of Children in Care Regulated Services and that a new independent panel chair took up her post in January 2015.

It was reported that the service was engaged in the second phase of a demand management project led by consultants imPOWER. It was further reported that project groups made up of managers, social workers, foster carers and adopters and supported by a consultant were developing operational responses to the recommendations and findings generated in Phase one of the project. Members noted that there were three work streams looking at recruitment, assessment and support.

It was reported that a new post of Fostering and Adoption Recruitment Officer, funded through the Adoption Reform Grant, started on 17 December. It was further reported that the appointment would improve initial response to enquiries, produce better information reports and support recruitment events.

Members noted that fostering allowances were being reviewed for 2015-16 to keep comparable to the Fostering Network recommended rates and above the national minimum rate and that this was to ensure the service remained competitive and provided value for money.

Members discussed reviews of fosters carers and agreed that a report on this should be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. to approve the Fostering Agency report; and**
- 2. to request that a report on foster carer reviews be brought to a future meeting of the Board.**

58/14 Adoption Agency Report

The board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young people on Adoption Agency Report. The report and a presentation were presented by the Director of Specialist Services.

It was reported that the Children Act 1989, the Adoption Agency Regulations (2011), the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2014 placed duties and responsibilities on Local Authorities to provide, or arrange to provide an Adoption Service.

Members received information on numbers of adopters approved and children placed. Members noted that the service was also part of the demand management project and subject to the same work streams looking at recruitment, assessment and support.

Members agreed that an update report should be brought to a future meeting of the Board and that the report should include information on post adoption support.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation; and**
- 2. to request that an update report be brought to a future meeting of the Board, including information on post adoption support.**

59/14 Safeguarding Children: Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Safeguarding Children: Summary of Roles and Responsibilities. The report was presented by the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding.

It was reported that in 2011, Cabinet approved a document summarising the roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children across the whole Council and that this report provided a further update. It was further reported that this update reflected the changes introduced in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and was timely in light of the recent national high profile inquiries in relation to safeguarding, such as the review of Child Sexual Exploitation arrangements in Rotherham.

Members noted that the overall aim was to ensure these roles and responsibilities were exercised with respective services, in order to ensure that the whole authority maintained an organisational culture and ethos that prioritised the importance of safeguarding and promoted the welfare of children and young people.

Members discussed the role and responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny Board Members and recognised the importance of them being fully equipped to deliver this key role. The Service Director agreed to look at providing an additional layer of support for Overview and Scrutiny Board Members. It was noted that Overview and

Scrutiny Board Members should scrutinise, 'that safeguarding is accessible to all communities.' Members asked for this role to be clarified and made more specific.

Members agreed that in future the Summary of Roles and Responsibilities document should highlight any changes.

Resolved:

- 1. to approve the revised document summarising the roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children – attached at Appendix 2;**
- 2. to agree that the document be distributed to all Elected Members and senior officers;**
- 3. to agree that all Elected Members should continue to undertake mandatory awareness training on safeguarding and corporate parenting, provided by senior officers from the Children and Young People Directorate; and**
- 4. to request that in future the Summary of Roles and Responsibilities document highlights any changes.**

60/14 Derby's Response to Child Sexual Exploitation

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Derby's Response to Child Sexual Exploitation. The report was presented by the Head of Children's Quality Assurance.

It was reported that following publication of the Jay and Casey reports into Child Sexual Abuse in Rotherham, partners involved in the Derby Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy had reviewed the reports in relation to activity in Derby and undertaken a self-assessment against current standards.

It was further reported that the Corporate Parenting Board received the annual CSE report at its January meeting and that this report provided an update on Derby's position and aimed to answer specific questions raised by both of the Rotherham reports.

Members noted that the Council had updated its guidance on roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children across the whole Council, which reflected both Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and the Rotherham reports.

Members noted the recent correspondence from the DfE on 3 March 2015. Members also noted that the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families had asked Directors of Children Services to review assessment and decision making tools in relation to CSE. It was reported that the Prime Minister had also issued new measures to tackle CSE on the same date, which were currently being considered.

It was reported that in Derby, no issues had been identified as requiring urgent action, but there were opportunities to give further attention to:

- Performance reporting and data
- Ethnicity of suspects and perpetrators
- Role of Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- Role of Specialist Services
- Multi Agency Teams and Social work threshold
- Role of schools in preventive work
- Licensed services – hotels and taxis
- Therapy for victims
- Gangs as a related issue
- Role of Elected Members

Members agreed that at paragraph 5.15 of the report, Role of Elected Members, the eLearning on Safeguarding should be included and Members should be encouraged to complete this.

Resolved;

- 1. to note the report; and**
- 2. to agree that at paragraph 5.15 of the report, Role of Elected Members, the eLearning on Safeguarding should be included and Members should be encouraged to complete this.**

61/14 Monitoring Safeguarding Practice

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Monitoring Safeguarding Practice. The report and a presentation were presented by the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding and the Head of Safeguarding.

It was reported that delivering good quality social work practice and driving forward improvements was dependent upon having a stable, competent and experienced work force.

It was further reported that there was a national shortage of qualified children's social workers and Derby was affected by the national picture.

Members noted that there was a recently developed workforce strategy in place with the aim of making Derby a more attractive place to work for social workers and reducing reliance on agency social workers.

Members considered average social workers caseloads and agreed that an update should be provided at a future meeting of the Board.

Members discussed ways of attracting experienced social workers to come and work for Derby City Council. Members agreed that an update on this should be provided at a future meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the content of the report and presentation;**
- 2. to note and endorse the range of management actions in place to bring stability to the work force; and**
- 3. to request that an update report on social worker caseloads and recruitment be brought to a future meeting of the Board.**

MINUTES END