

Time commenced – 6.01pm
Time finished – 7.58pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD
9 JULY 2013**

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

1/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Campbell and S Khan.

2/13 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

3/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5/13 Work Programme

The board considered a report by the Strategic Director of Resources on the Outline Work Programme for 2013-14. A draft programme was included for members' comments, including items within three distinct themes:

- Safeguarding and legislative changes;
- Care leavers; and
- Education and health.

Following suggestions by members, it was agreed to bring forward the education results to the November meeting. It was explained that the official results did not come out until December but that tentative results could be reported earlier. It was also agreed that youth offending should be added as a topic to be considered in a future board meetings.

Resolved to:

- 1) Approve the draft work outline in the report;**
- 2) Receive education results at the November meeting of the board; and**
- 3) Request that members contact the Scrutiny Officer with any further suggestions to be reported back to a future meeting.**

6/13 Foster care recruitment and retention

The board received a presentation from the Head of Children in Care, on actions to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

It was reported that there were 462 children in care in Derby, including 344 in foster care – 182 with council fosters carers and 162 with independent fostering agencies. The board was informed that current priorities included the implementation of a marketing strategy to encourage both short and long term carers.

Members asked about how the council's fostering allowances compared to those provided by independent fostering agencies. It was confirmed that the independent agencies continued to pay slightly more but that feedback from families who had experienced both was that council foster carers felt more supported throughout the process.

Resolved to note the presentation.

7/13 Corporate Parent visits to Children's Homes

A report of the Strategic Director of Resources was considered. The report outlined arrangements for reporting visits to children's homes under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations and for reporting arrangements for children's home Ofsted reports. A protocol on unannounced visits to residential children's homes was also proposed for approval.

In addition, members were provided with a draft schedule for visits to children's homes during the 2013/14 municipal year.

Resolved to:

- 1) Note arrangements for reporting Regulation 33 reports;**
- 2) Note arrangements for reports Ofsted reports; and**
- 3) Approve the protocol for unannounced visits to residential children's homes.**

8/13 Independent Reviewing Officers

A report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People was considered. Members were introduced to the Annual Report of Independent Reviewing Officers.

It was explained that independent reviewing officer was a statutory role, with duties of postholders being to monitor the local authority's performance relating to children in care, to lead reviews of children's cases and to promote the voice of the child.

Members asked how management would follow up if it transpired a form relating to a child's case had not been filled in or been missed. The board was advised that this would depend on the circumstances, but management's reaction would be likely to range from training to disciplinary action.

The board felt that the role of IROs was vital and the service needed supporting to ensure there was sufficient IROs in place to deliver on behalf of the children in care.

The Chair raised concerns over CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).

Resolved to:

- 1) recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People require officers to conduct a review the allocation of Independent Reviewing Officers and consider whether a temporary increase in posts would be appropriate; and**
- 2) include a review of CAMHS on the board's work programme for 2013-14.**

At this stage Councillor Williams left the meeting.

9/13 Co-opted members

A report of the Strategic Director of Resources was presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

The report detailed options for the co-option of additional members to the board. It was reported that the board was constitutionally able to co-opt new members and consideration was given to whether the board could co-opt representatives from the Children in Care Council and Derby Foster Carers Association. However, the board was also informed that there were complications in making these appointment as these organisations would be unlikely to be able to commit to sending one named individual, which would be required by the council.

Resolved not to appoint any co-opted members but to recommend that the Chair continue to use discretion to ensure representatives of appropriate organisations could be given a voice at future meetings.

10/13 Adoption Statement of Purpose

A report on the updated Adoption Statement of Purpose was presented by the Head of Children in Care. It was explained that the information in the document was prescribed in Standard 18 of the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.

Resolved to approve the updated Adoption Statement of Purpose.

11/13 Moorfield Redevelopment

Councillor Bolton advised members that she intended to absent herself during consideration of this item in order not to prejudice her position as Chair of the Planning Control Committee. As Councillor Bolton's absence would make the meeting inquorate it was agreed to consider the item at a future meeting.

12/13 Letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Resolved to note the letter.

13/13 Letter from Craig Whittaker MP, Chair of the All Party Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers

Resolved to note the letter.

14/13 Thematic Inspection

Resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END