

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8.21pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD
20 January 2015

Present: Councillor Eldret (Chair) (for 31/14 to 40/14 inclusive)
Councillor Hezelgrave (Chair) (for 40/14 to 41/14 inclusive)
Councillors Care, Keith and Nawaz

Councillor Eldret left the room during consideration of 40/14 and was not present for consideration of 41/14.

In Attendance: Councillor Hussain

31/14 Appointment of Chair

Resolved to agree that Councillor Eldret be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

32/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Whitby and Williams.

33/14 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

34/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

35/14 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

36/14 Forward Plan

The Board considered the Forward Plan published on 23 December 2014. Members wanted an opportunity for the Children and Young People Board to consider and comment upon the following item:

- Item 45/14 – Outcome of the Consultation of Specialist Nursery for Disabled Children at the Lighthouse.

37/14 Children in Care – Performance Update

The board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Children in Care – Performance Update. The report and a presentation were presented by the Improvement Partner - Children and Young People.

It was reported that at the end of March 2014, there was a total of 446 looked after children in Derby City. It was further reported that this represented a 4% decline from the position reported at the end of March 2013 and equated to a rate of 77 per 10,000 children (< 18 years of age).

Members noted that an early statistical release on the total numbers of children in care was published by the Department for Education in September 2014 and highlighted that Derby was ranked third lowest in its comparator group

It was reported that the ‘full statistical release’ detailing a complete overview into the outcomes for the Council's looked after children for 2013/14 compared to comparator and national averages was published in December 2014.

The Improvement Partner for Children and Young People's Services explained how Derby compared nationally in relation to the outcomes for Derby's looked after children. Members of the Board were also updated on recent trends pertaining to the Council's looked after children.

Members discussed the education outcomes of looked after children and agreed that the Key Stage 4 Improvement plan should be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Members considered health outcomes and the deterioration of annual health check figures. It was reported that health needs were being met but that the statistics did not support that. Members felt that school nurses should carry out the annual health checks or that schools should be used as a venue for annual health checks.

Members discussed the use of the Strength and Difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) and agreed that guidance should be produced for foster carers in relation to completing the questionnaire.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report and presentation;**
- 2. to request that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board on the Key Stage 4 Improvement Plan;**
- 3. to request that school nurses carry out annual health checks or that schools be used as a venue for annual health checks; and**
- 4. to request that guidance be produced in relation to the completion of the Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire (SDQ).**

38/14 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 considered and discussed performance figures in relation to adoption timelines and noted where Derby's performance could be improved. Members noted Telford and Wrekin Council's impressive performance figures and agreed that a report should be brought to a future meeting of the Board on their approach to adoption.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report and presentation with performance information regarding adoption; and**
- 2. to request that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board on Telford and Wrekin Council's approach to adoption.**

39/14 Fostering Service Report

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People on Fostering Service Report. The report was presented by the Director of Specialist Services.

It was reported that the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services 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.

(Standard 25.7)

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 April to June 2014 was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board on 7 October 2014 and that this report covered the period July to September 2014.

It was reported that between 1 July and 30 September 2014 the Fostering Service registered 48 enquiries and that out of those, two fostering households were approved. Members asked whether feedback had been sought from the original 48. It was reported that discussions had recently taken place with Derby Direct in relation to sample feedback being sought.

Resolved to approve the Fostering Agency Report;

40/14 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Annual Report

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Annual Report. The report was presented by the Director of Specialist Services.

It was reported that the child sexual exploitation (CSE) work in Derby was driven by a multi-agency partnership and action plan coordinated through the Derby Safeguarding Children Board.

Members considered the role of CSE champions and discussed the criteria for being selected as a CSE champion. It was reported that champions were selected by the Derby Safeguarding Children Board.

Members discussed the recent events in Rotherham and agreed that a report should be brought to a future meeting of the Board on the lessons learnt from Rotherham. It was reported that Derby's CSE Strategy was being revised as a result of the events in Rotherham. Members agreed that the revised strategy should be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the work of the multi-agency partnership in its annual report;**
- 2. to request that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board on the lessons learnt from Rotherham; and**
- 3. to request that the revised child sexual exploitation (CSE) Strategy be brought to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board.**

41/14 Work Programme and Topic Reviews

The Board received a report of the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board on Work Programme and Topic Reviews. The report was presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

It was reported that Members had an opportunity to discuss potential work plans and topic reviews for the forthcoming municipal year, and develop the basis for a work programme. Members noted that reviews may cover anything within their remit and could include internal as well as external facing services.

Resolved to agree the current work programme.

MINUTES END