

Time commenced – 6.02pm
Time finished – 7.10pm

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD 4 DECEMBER 2012

Present: Councillors Bailey, Bolton, J Khan, Whitby and
F Winter

Councillors J Khan left the room after consideration of 27/12 and was absent for 28/12.

23/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atwal, Campbell, Martin and Williams.

24/12 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following item on the grounds that the item needed to be considered before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee:

- Charter for Care Leavers

25/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26/12 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board held on 23 October 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment.

That under “Present”, Councillor Boulton was spelt incorrectly and the correct spelling was Councillor Bolton.

27/12 Multi Systemic Teams

The Board received a presentation on Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) from the Derby City MST Supervisor and Programme Manager. The presentation was introduced by the Commissioning Manager. It was reported that MST was an intensive family and community based intervention that targeted the multiple causes of serious anti-social behaviour in young people. It was explained that the overall aims of MST were to maintain young people at home, to maintain young people at school or work and to prevent young people from (re)offending. It was reported that the new MST team would be officially launched in January 2013.

Members noted that the referral criteria were:

- young people between the ages of 12-17 (11 year-olds could be included if in year 7);
- at risk of being placed in care or custody;
- living at home;
- young people with criminal behaviour;
- young people with serious aggressive behaviour;
- young people with drug and alcohol problems;
- young people with academic problems including truancy; and
- running away.

Members enquired how MST would fit in with multi-agency Teams and Family Intervention Programmes (FIPs). It was explained that there would be the potential for some overlap. It was further explained that young people who were in a FIP, for example, could be referred if the FIP was not working. Members noted that there would also be an overlap with the troubled families' initiative.

The Board asked whether MST teams would also be looking at the behaviour of the parents. It was confirmed that the teams would work with one or both parents to help increase parent confidence to be able to support the young person and increase the young person's engagement with the family. Members noted that the creation of a wider support system was also important; including, for example, neighbours and school.

Members asked about the funding of the MST team and whether that could be affected by Council budget savings. It was explained that Derby City Council had entered into a four year contract with Action for Children to deliver the service and that some funding came from the Department for Education (DfE) and some from the Children and Young People Directorate. It was further explained that the MST service could be affected by future Council budget savings.

Members enquired how well informed the schools were about the MST service. It was confirmed that work had been carried out to make sure that schools and Head teachers were well aware of the service.

Members noted that there were four therapists on the MST team and enquired whether they would be inundated with referrals. It was reported that there potentially could be a waiting list.

It was reported that an outcomes report would be produced in six months time. Members agreed that this should be brought before the Board at a future meeting.

Members were invited to attend the official launch of the MST team in January 2013 and it was confirmed that details of the event would be passed to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer.

Resolved:

- **to note the presentation; and**
- **to request that the six month outcomes report on the use of Multi Systemic Therapy be brought before a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board.**

28/12 Charter for Care Leavers

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Charter for Care Leavers. The report was presented by the Head of Locality 1 & 5. It was reported that the DfE in association with care leavers, charities and local authorities, had launched a council charter for care leavers.

The Head of Service provided Members with some of the background to young people leaving care. It was noted that there were lots of myths, stereotypes and stigma attached, that meant some young people tried to hide that they had been in care. It was reported that there was a diversity of needs and experiences amongst those young people and they were not a homogenous group. It was further reported that many young people were vulnerable and not achieving potential. It was explained that stability, consistency and quality relationships promoted resilience and that good quality support improved life chances and outcomes.

Members noted that there were a number of concerns that young people had about leaving care, such as not being able to cope and having nowhere to live.

The Board noted that the charter was based upon seven principles:

1. To respect and honour your identity
2. To believe in you
3. To listen to you
4. To inform you
5. To support you
6. To find you a home
7. To be a lifelong champion

It was reported that these principles would remain constant through any changes in legislation, regulation and guidance. Members noted that the charter was designed to raise expectation, aspiration and understanding of what care leavers needed and what the government and local authorities should do to be good corporate parents.

Resolved:

1. **to note the report; and**
2. **to agree to sign up to the charter for care leavers.**

MINUTES END