

Meeting	CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE
Date	Monday 17 March 2014 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Liz Plant (Chairman)

John Allin
Steve Calvert
Boyd Elliott
Kate Foale

A Colleen Harwood
Philip Owen
Sue Saddington
Jacky Williams

Foster Carer

Dawn Clements
Sarah Maiden

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rachel Coombs	-	Group Manager, Children, Families and Cultural Services Department
Sue Denholm	-	Co-ordinator, Virtual School
Linda Foster	-	Team Manager, Support to Schools Service
Mary Jarrett	-	Service Manager, Commissioning & Placements
Wendy Rylands	-	After Care Team Manager
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Service Manager, Adoption
Sarah Ashton	-	Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Policy, Planning & Corporate Services Department
Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Assistant, Children, Families & Cultural Services Department.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2013, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Philip Owen (Other)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPRING TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Sue Denholm, Co-ordinator for the virtual school and Linda Foster, Team Manager for Support to School Services gave the Sub-Committee the latest figures for value added data and evaluation results, the final report would be completed at the end of March 2014 and would be forwarded to Members. The report would be given to Ofsted at the time of the safeguarding inspection.

Sue and Linda highlighted the following:

- KS2 Virtual School progress data for Reading, Writing and Mathematics was above or in line with National averages but unfortunately attainment had gone down this year from previous year
- KS4 Virtual School attainment data for 5 or more A*-C including English and Mathematics was just below the National average but progress was in line with National and required improvement to be good.

Members and Officers had a lengthy discussion on how the data would be interpreted and carried out.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and asked for future reports to include the number of children at each stage as this would help them to analyse the reports more effectively

The Meeting was adjourned for a Fire Drill at 14.30.

Meeting resumed at 14.38.

It was confirmed the Achievement Event would be held at the Albert Hall, Nottingham on 19 July 2014.

RESOLVED 2014/001

That the update on the virtual school for the Spring 2014 term be noted.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY UPDATE

Rachel Coombs, Group Manager for Access to Resources updated the Sub-Committee on the progress of the action plan, highlighting the following:

- The Department of Health were concerned as to the increased number of self-harm cases that were being reported in young people (not just LAC).
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) were working well and therefore this area would not be changed following the review.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and conveyed their concerns regarding self-harming, the data sharing between Health and Children's Social Care was

thought to be a significant step forward and a further report would be presented to the Sub-Committee at a future meeting.

The Sub-committee thought it would be helpful if officers from the Looked After service and CAMHS were invited to the next meeting to discuss new ways of measuring positive progress in emotional resilience and wellbeing for LAC and young people.

RESOLVED 2014/002

That the update on the progress of the action plan for the Looked After Children Strategy be noted.

LEAVING CARE SERVICE UPDATE

Wendy Rylands Team Manager for After Care updated the Sub-Committee on the services to care leavers by the Leaving Care Service, highlighting the following:

- The service is now getting involved 6 months before the young person would leave care.
- There was a large rise in the number of young people using the service and the team were expecting another peak before the end of 2014.
- The Department of Work and Pensions had flagged up care leavers as a group needing extra consideration; therefore resulting in a lot of partnerships being available to give these young people as much help as possible.
- The Leaving Care Services were due to meet with 'Futures' to see if they could improve the number of apprenticeship placements available.

RESOLVED 2014/003

That the information about the service to care leavers provided by the Learning Care Service be noted.

ADOPTION SERVICE – BI-ANNUAL REPORT

Shelagh Mitchell Service Manager for Adoption updated the Sub-Committee on the activity in the adoption service from September 2013 to February 2014, highlighting the following:

- The level of available adopter families was on the increase and the adoption service was hoping to increase this further through advertising.
- According to scorecard averages the adoption services were placing children quicker than our statistical neighbours

The Sub-committee was pleased with the progress made and hoped their good work would continue.

RESOLVED 2014/004

That the six-monthly report on the activity in the adoption service from September 2013 to February 2014 be noted.

ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Mary Jarrett Service Manager for Commissioning and Placements informed the Sub-Committee on the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children (LAC), highlighting

the following:

- There was now a free help line number.
- LAC were visited every 8 weeks and services would be tailored to their needs and therefore would vary accordingly.

The Sub-committee requested a presentation on what the National Youth Advocacy Service does to be added to the work programme.

RESOLVED 2014/005

That the information about the Advocacy Service for Looked After Children be noted.

NUMBERS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLACED IN EXTERNALLY MANAGED RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Mary Jarrett Service Manager for Commissioning and Placements gave the Sub-Committee information about the number of Looked After Children (LAC) who were placed in external managed residential children's homes, highlighting the following:

- This report relates to the children placed in residential children's homes within Nottinghamshire, some of whom are from neighbouring Authorities.
- Nottinghamshire school places were allocated to residential children wherever possible but best provisional care would be a consideration.
- Getting LAC with parents moved back in to their parents' care was encouraged when it was safe / suitable to do so.

RESOLVED 2014/006

That the information about the number of looked after children and young people placed in externally managed residential children's homes be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

The updated work programme was considered by Members.

RESOLVED 2014/007

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

FOSTER CARERS ITEMS

Dawn Clements and Sarah Maiden, Foster Carers who were at the meeting had no concerns / issues at present.

The Sub-Committee emphasised the need for any concerns / issues to be reported to Officers when they arose rather than waiting to report them to a meeting.

The meeting closed at 15.28

CHAIRMAN