

Meeting	CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE
Date	Monday 12 December 2016 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Liz Plant (Chairman)

A	Maureen Dobson	A	Philip Owen
	Boyd Elliott		Sue Saddington
	Kate Foale	A	Andy Sissons
	Darren Langton		Jacky Williams

Foster Carer

Sarah Maiden

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Julie Brailsford	-	Democratic Services Officer, Resources
Sue Denholm	-	Co-ordinator, Virtual School
Laurence Jones	-	Group Manager
Michelle Lee	-	Children's Services Manager
Izzy Martin	-	Service Manager
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Group Manager, Access to Resources
Janeen Parker	-	Acting Team Manager, Virtual School
Colin Pettigrew	-	Corporate Director, Children, Families & Cultural Services
Georgina Staveley	-	Business Support Assistant, Children, Families & Cultural Services.
Kathryn Higgins	-	Designated Nurse, Children in Care County CCGS

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2016, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maureen Dobson, Phillip Owen and Andy Sissons.

MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that Councillor Darren Langton had been appointed in place of Councillor Colleen Harwood for this meeting only.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 2016-17) – SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN & CARE LEAVERS

This report provided the committee with a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1st July and 30th September.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- There had been a reduction in the number of looked after children, this was due to children leaving care at 18 and younger children being moved in to adoption in a more timely manner.
- Teenagers had more complex needs and were the biggest strain on the budget at a current cost of £2,300 to £6,000 per week per child.
- There was constant auditing to ensure that children who were still living at home were being supported.

RESOLVED 2016/027

To note the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 July to 30 September 2016.

AUTUMN TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

This report was introduced by the Chair of the committee who stated that it was important to note that the report was based on provisional, unvalidated outcomes for Nottinghamshire Looked After Children (LAC) in 2016. That care should be taken when comparing the key stage outcomes of LAC due to the small cohort sizes. There had been a number of significant changes to key performance measures over recent years and therefore comparisons could not be made with Key stage 1, 2 and 4.

The report was then presented by Janeen Parker, the Acting Team Manager for the Virtual School. The data was based on teacher assessments and the percentage figures could ideally be higher. This year's reading paper had been very challenging

and there was a combined drop of 12% across the Country and a similar figure within Notts. In maths the Value Added figure (progress made) at +1.97 was higher than the national average at +1.00. There had been a small decline in the English and Maths and work was being done with schools to ensure that LAC achieved a level C or above.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Data officer could internally keep track of LAC attendance at school and worked with school to improve the attendance figures.
- LAC moving schools resulted in 'lost learning' and therefore all moves were due to no alternative being available.
- Foster carers felt they had enough problems with the LAC without the added pressure of encouraging the children to do their homework.
- Schools needed to be held accountable for the children's performance. Pressure was being put on schools to use the pupil premium correctly and provide teaching support by a teacher rather than a teaching assistant.
- In future all data for LAC would be on one database and therefore providing more comparable information. The first set of reports would be produced in February 2017.

RESOLVED 2016/028

To note the update on the virtual school for the autumn term 2016.

NEW ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR 16-21 YEAR OLDS

The report providing an update on the Supported Accommodation services for 16 -21 year olds was introduced by Laurence Jones, team manager for the Early Help Services. The supported accommodation pathway and provision was commissioned in 2015 jointly between the Family Services, Children's Social Care and Public Health, resulting in four contracts across three providers. Three of the contracts had resulted in providing 220 units across Nottinghamshire and an additional 7 emergency bed spaces for young people presenting 'in a housing crisis'. The fourth contract was a county wide Host Families Service providing 20 Supported Lodging placements and 10 Nightstop placements.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- A visit by the Chair to a hostel in Lady Bay had shown that there were lots of events and community engagement.
- It was felt that there was 'good value for money' from the contracts of the providers.
- People waiting for planned moves were also on the waiting list for the accommodation. The move to independence was planned carefully with the

help of their social worker. There was also a priority system for 18-21 year olds who may have a vulnerability.

- 'Mediated' referred to 16 and 17 year olds who presented as homeless and work was done with their parents to access if it was safe for them to go home.

RESOLVED 2016/029

To note the content of the report.

LEAVING CARE SERVICE UPDATE

The report provided an update on the Leaving Care Service. The service was part of the Throughcare Service and provided advice, support and guidance to young people who had left the care of the Authority and were over the age of 18 years. Since the last update report there had been no change to the staffing structure,

The following points were raised and discussed:

- Concern was expressed that there was an increasing number of young people in care who on turning 18 were not in education, employment or training. To help alleviate this earlier intervention was required (at KS4) with schools to find out if their curriculum matched what the young person wanted to achieve and therefore on the correct courses.
- How difficult it was to leave a structured environment and move into an independent way of living. The most vulnerable needed a mentor but there was not the resource to provide this therefore work with other providers strategically was required. There was a 'data share' agreement to collate any concerns about a young person.
- A further specific report on the young people detailed in paragraph 8 was requested by the committee. 'Other reasons' was described as limited educational achievement.
- Work was currently being undertaken with the young asylum seekers who were in the area. Currently they were all male who were vulnerable and had complex problems.

RESOLVED 2016/030

To note the report

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE – SIX MONTH UPDATE

Izzy Martin, Service Manager for the Independent Chair Service presented the report. She was pleased to report that the service was fully staffed with permanent employees and this provided a very good, stable service.

Workshops had been held locally with Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) looking at different ways of engaging with the young people. Currently, child friendly reports were being piloted, this was a shorter and simplified document written specifically for the child and so far had been well received.

RESOLVED 2016/031

To note the update on the activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April to September 2016.

WORK PROGRAMME

The updated work programme was discussed and considered by Members.

RESOLVED 2016/032

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

FOSTER CARERS ITEMS

There were no items for discussion from foster carers.

The meeting closed at 2.57pm.

CHAIRMAN

12 December 2016