

Meeting	CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE
Date	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

**Membership**

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

Liz Plant (Chairman)

A	Maureen Dobson	Philip Owen
	Boyd Elliott	Sue Saddington
	Kate Foale	Andy Sissons
	Colleen Harwood	A Jacky Williams

**Foster Carer**

Sarah Maiden

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Julie Brailsford	-	Assistant Democratic Service Officer, Policy, Planning & Corporate Services
Beth Cundy	-	Service Manager, Supported Accommodation
Sue Denholm	-	Virtual School Co-ordinator
Steve Edwards	-	Service Director, Children's Social Care
Linda Foster	-	Acting Group Manager, Education Standards & Inclusion
Dawn Godfrey	-	Group Manager, Children's Social Care
Izzy Martin	-	Service Manager, Independent Chair Service
Philippa Milbourne	-	Business Support Assistant, Children, Families & Cultural Services.
Shelagh Mitchell	-	Group Manager, Children's Social Care

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Maureen Dobson and Councillor Jacky Williams.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

It was reported that Councillor Andy Sissons had been appointed in place of Councillor Gail Turner on a permanent basis.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 2015/16) – SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The report provided a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The following point was raised:

- It was good practise for a Looked After child to meet with their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to their review meeting, it helped to develop the relationship between them.

## **RESOLVED 2016/01**

That the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be noted.

## **AUTUMN TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The report provided an update on the virtual school for the autumn term 2015.

The following points were raised:

- The Key Stage 2 data was positive.
- It was intended to collate the feedback and information from the school data on an annual basis and share this so that schools can see what others are doing.
- A Data Officer had been appointed and would be working closely with the Looked After performance teams.
- No Key Stage 4 or 5 data had been included as the first statistical release by the Department for Education had been moved to March and therefore changed the reporting time.

- A future report on 'things that are working well' was requested by the committee.

## **RESOLVED 2016/02**

That the update on the virtual school for the autumn term 2015 be noted.

## **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2015-18 UPDATE**

The report provided an update on the progress of the annual action plan for the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- Concern regarding the increase in the average waiting time from 36 to 44 days for an initial Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) consultation with a social worker.
- With the 'Closing the Gap Strategy' better outcome results had been expected.
- Schools who had not returned their personal plan data were being targeted. The recently appointed Data Officer would be visiting each college and devising a system to help improve the recording of data. Also, looking to improve the number of Looked After children who continued with higher education.
- There were plans to share data with East Midlands school improvement group & visit the nearest higher performing neighbour to find out why.
- It was felt that the Local Authority should be more proactive and involved in gathering the data as school Governors did not always fully understand their role in respect of this. Schools had a statutory duty to report annually on Looked After children and it was a key focus when OFSTED visited schools.

## **RESOLVED 2016/03**

That the update on the progress of the annual action plan for the Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2015-18 be noted.

## **INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE – SIX MONTH UPDATE**

The report updated the committee about some of the activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April to September 2015.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Independent Reviewing Officers regional group had chosen to look at different areas and share good practise.
- The 'alert process' had highlighted that Personal Education Plans were not being completed in a timely manner to progress the care plan.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/04**

That the update on the activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April to September 2015 be noted.

#### **PRESENTATION ON NEW ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR 16-21 YEAR OLDS**

Beth Cundy, Service Manager Supported Accommodation, gave a presentation on the new accommodation provision for 16-21 year olds and the background to this. The Council looked to improve services for young people and undertook a review into the provision of supported and semi-independent accommodation. Funding of 2.6m from Children's Social Care, Family Service and Public Health was pooled and following a tendering process contracts commenced in August 2015. There were 257 beds across the County and it was estimated that 360 young people would access the service. Once a young person was in Emergency accommodation, mediation was undertaken to try and return the young person home. Any Safeguarding issues were reported to the MASH.

Following the presentation the following points were discussed:

- Nightstop was the preferred setting for emergency accommodation. This was a host accommodating the young person in a family environment in their own home. The young person was not allowed to stay when the host was not there and for a maximum of 10 consecutive nights. The young person must be low risk and not have used drugs or alcohol for this type of placement, a risk assessment was always done of the day of the referral.
- When moving in to their own accommodation, a young person received support tailored to their needs from the same support worker. Typically six week's support that tapered off to independence but with the option to return to the service for support when necessary.
- There was a five year contract with the option to extend for a further two years. This was to stop children being 'bounced' from one service to another and improve the provision of emergency accommodation.
- The new provision meant that the process for looked after children covered 16 to 21 years old. If they left at 21 they were still helped to gain a tenancy with follow up monitoring after 6 and 12 months.
- Providers do not push young people into independent living if they are not ready.

- All areas were up and running except the South which had to be retendered on 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- The new accommodation panel was up and running on a weekly basis. Councillor Foale had attended one of these meetings and found it to be very enlightening and a good example of partnership working.

The committee thanked Beth Cundy for her presentation and requested that monitoring of the outcomes from the new provision be reported back in due course.

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The updated work programme was discussed and considered by Members.

### **RESOLVED 2016/05**

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

### **FOSTER CARERS ITEMS**

The Foster Carer present at the meeting had nothing to report to the Sub-Committee.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm

**CHAIRMAN**  
11 January 2016