

Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Monday, 10th December, 2018.

Present: Cllr Di Hewitt(Chairman), Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Marilyn Surtees,

Officers: Michael Henderson, Paul Diggins, Rhona Bolland, Jane Smith, David Willingham, Jamie Wassell (SBC), Trina Holcroft (HaST), Sarah McNulty (NTHFT), Richard Chillery (HDFT), Steve Rose (Catalyst)

Also in attendance: Chloe Lawrence (ARC)

Apologies: Cllr Sally Ann Watson

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 More Stuff like this please!

Members received details of ' More Stuff Like this Please!' which was a two year programme, funded by the Council and Bridge North East. The programme was delivered by ARC Stockton, the Council and Blue Cabin. It introduced children in our care to creative experiences, including dance, drama, craft, painting etc.

Discussion:

- the current age group of children involved was 8 - 16 years old but there were plans to include early years children, in the future.

- 5 Children had achieved a Bronze Art Award. It was explained that a presentation evening was being arranged and it was agreed that the Board would be represented at the event.

- Steve Rose and Chloe Lawrence would discuss how Catalyst could be involved and help, particularly in terms of accessing funding streams.

- the full Year 1 report had been prepared and could be shared with the Board.

RESOLVED that;

1. the details of the programme be noted.

2. Catalyst meets with Arc and look to identify further funding for the programme.

3. the Board send representatives to the Bronze Arts Award presentation event.

4. the Year 1 report be circulated to the Board.

4 Children in Our Care Strategic Officer Group - Update

Consideration was given to a report, detailing discussion at the Children in our care strategic officer group.

It was explained that the Group had considered the priorities agreed by this Board, at its first meeting:

Mental Health
Early years in care
Growing up and moving on.

The Board noted that the priorities aligned with Points 2, 5 and 7 of the Children in our Care and Care Leavers Strategy i.e. (2) We promise that Children and Young People will have productive relationships: family friends and community life (5) We promise that Children and Young People will be healthy (7) We promise that Children and Young People will be supported in the transition to adulthood and as Care Leavers. An action plan would be prepared for this Board's next meeting.

The Group had also looked at:

- the virtual school and the high level of exclusions.
- Health Assessments and a review undertaken by North Tees Hospital Headlines would be provided to a future Board meeting.
- the increasing numbers of Children in Our Care.
- pressures being experienced by the CAMHS team.

Discussion:

- The Board recognized that increases in children going into care was a national issue and noted that, in Stockton, there were currently over 500 children in the Council's Care. This position would be difficult to sustain and the Board asked for a report that considered why numbers were increasing and what might be done about it. The Chair indicated that she would look to arrange a meeting between herself, the vice chair of the Board, the Cabinet member for Children and Young People's Services, the Chair of the Children and Young People's Select Committee and the Director of Children's Services to consider this issue.
- Children in Our Care was a priority in terms of CAMHS support, though delays were also being experienced in this area.
- Mental Health was a priority for the Board and the Virtual School Head Teacher would need to be part of the development of any action plan in this regard.
- It was important that a representative from Health was identified, to attend the

Virtual School Strategic and Operational meetings. This would be discussed further, outside the Board meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. the update be noted.
2. a report be prepared for the Board's next meeting relating to the increase in children in our care.
3. an action plan relating to the delivery of the Board's three identified priorities be presented to its next meeting.

5 Data and Analysis- Statistical Review

The Board received a report and presentation that provided statistical analysis of issues in relation to children in our care. The presentation looked to identify a baseline, against which, activities could be judged.

Discussion:

- It was noted that Stockton had very low adoption breakdown rates.
- Members noted some of the work being undertaken by the Combined Authority, relating to young people's employment, education and training.

Members identified and agreed key baseline information to help assess progress going forward:-

Children in Care

- There were 504 children in our care at Q2 2018-19, which was the highest number ever recorded in Stockton.
- The Stockton trend was in line with the Tees trend showing large increases over recent years.
- The rate in other comparators was significantly lower and showed a trend of much smaller increases over recent years.
- Stockton and the rest of the Tees Valley had higher levels of children ceasing to be in our care than all other comparators.

Ceasing Care

- The Stockton trend was generally in line with all other comparators, showing small decreases over recent years.
- The percentage of children in our care adopted correlated with the Tees average, over recent years.

Care Leavers

- Care Leavers in Stockton aged 19, 20 and 21, at 31 March 2018, were less likely to be in education, employment or training than all other comparators.

- Care Leavers in Stockton aged 17 and 18 at 31 March 2018 were more likely to be in education, employment or training than all other comparators.

Missing Incidents

- Children in our care were less likely to have had a missing incident during 2017-18, than all other comparators.
- Children in our care who had a missing incident during 2017-18 were likely to have had more incidents than all other comparators.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and the baseline data agreed.

6 Virtual Head Teacher Annual Report 2017/2018

The Board was provided with the Virtual School Annual Report 2017/18.

Members noted that 2017/18 had seen significant improvements in all phases, but especially Early Years, Year 1 Phonics, Key Stage 1 and 2.

The Annual Report also detailed :

- Contextual information
- Educational Challenge and Support
- Service Practice
- Continual Improvement
- Child Engagement/Celebration
- priorities 2018/19

Discussion:

- Members noted that the Virtual School relied heavily on the Pupil Premium Fund.
- The Board noted that the Virtual School had provided training for services and schools on attachment difficulties and developmental Trauma, Emotion Coaching and Theraplay. It was noted that around 30 schools had undertaken in depth training. More information detailing which schools were undertaking training, and at what level, would be provided in a future Virtual School Update.
- Members noted that the Virtual School was working with key services to develop and implement an 'Attachment Aware Behaviour Regulation Policy'. The Board asked that it receive a copy of the Policy in due course.
- Reference was made to children in care, who had received exclusions, who were transferring to other schools to undertake the exclusion in isolation rooms. It was noted that this was being looked at by the Director of Children's Services.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Annual Report be noted.
2. details of training in schools, as described above, be included in the next Virtual School Update report.
3. The Attachment Aware Behaviour Regulation Policy be circulated to members, once it has been finalised.

7 A Helping Hand Scheme

Consideration was given to a report that provided details of the 'A helping Hand' Scheme which gave all elected members and employees of Stockton on Tees Borough Council, an opportunity to be part of the Council's corporate parenting approach.

The representative from Catalyst indicated that this was something the VCSE would want to be involved in and other partner organisations were encouraged to consider how they might be involved.

Further updates on the scheme would be presented to future meetings.

RESOLVED that the update report be noted.

8 Feedback from Corporate Parenting Event

Members were provided with high level details of outcomes from the Corporate Parenting event.

It was agreed that a brief summary of the outcomes be provided to members of the Board and a draft action plan be prepared for circulation, ahead of the Board's next meeting.

Members noted the high value children and young people in care placed on the interaction they had with Corporate Parents. It was explained that the Communications team was looking to capture and highlight some of this interaction and may be contacting members in this regard.

RESOLVED that an Action Plan relating to the delivery of outcomes from the Corporate Parenting event be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

9 Forward Plan

Members considered its Forward Plan and it was agreed that it be amended to reflect discussion at the meeting.