

Report for Corporate Parent Board (CPB) 07.06.19

Children in Our Care Strategic Group Update.

The last strategic group meeting was held on 23.05.19 and will continue to meet 6 weekly.

This meeting was brief and attendance was impacted upon by the fact that there was an Ofsted Inspection and other key activity taking place.

Items discussed were

- Children in Our Care Action Plan
- Helping Hand Scheme – update

Children in Our Care Action Plan

The action plan is being developed to include a focus on 'Impact' to ensure that we are able to see the effectiveness of our actions for the children in our care. Discussion took place with regards to the importance of being able to see the impact whether at a service level or an individual impact level.

Each member is to review the plan and provide examples of either service level or individual level Impact as a starting point.

Examples discussed included

- Priority 1. – Supporting the role of the children in care council.
The Children in Care Council highlighted travel arrangements as a problem for some we worked to help resolve this by implementing an incentive led discounted or free bus passes.
X young people have accessed the scheme enabling them to attend college courses.

A deadline set for inputs for 04.06.19 and the plan will then be updated and reviewed by the Strategic group and shared with the Corporate Parent Board

Helping Hand Scheme – update

Helping Hand Scheme is an initiative we are developing to give opportunity for every Stockton Council Employee to contribute to the role of Corporate Parent. This has 3 main elements.

1. Opportunity to give time
2. Opportunity to give finance
3. Opportunity to contribute additional projects such as a 'Gift of a book' scheme.

Opportunity to give time- work is progressing to get the scheme up and running. The 2 main strands of this work currently being developed is the 'matching up' of a young person with an employee who is able to give time to support a young person's talent or interest. We are hoping to identify 2 young people in the first instance who want to develop a talent or interest and will then via The Talent Network put out an expression of Interest and those interested in giving time to this venture with the young person will be vetted and trained before being connected to the young person. The other strand is again via the Talent Network asking for anyone interested in becoming an Independent visitor to a child in our care to come forward and in partnership with NYAS they will be vetted and trained to undertake this role.

Opportunity to give finance – A fund has been set up under the auspices of Tees Valley Community Foundation (TVCF) and work progressing to develop a board of trustees to maintain and oversee the fund. The board will include amongst others, young people who are care leavers. The Majors charity has donated £5000 into the fund which is a good starting point

Jackie Ward

Service Manager

Looked After Children and Complex Needs .