

Report for Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) 9 August 2019

Children in Our Care Strategic Group (CIOCSG) Update

The last CIOCSG was held on 1 August 2019.

Items discussed were:

- CIOCSG Action Plan
- Activities during school holidays
- CIOC project update
- Children's residential review
- Health and Wellbeing of CIOC

CIOCSG Action Plan

The CIOCSG Action Plan will be reviewed in 6 months' time when we will assess effectiveness of the plan, the impact of our interventions and any areas for improvement.

Activities during school holidays

Our local libraries are signed up to the Summer national reading challenge which is an initiative to encourage children to read throughout the school holidays, our foster carers and children's residential staff are aware of the scheme and are encouraging our children in care to participate.

The children in our care celebration event is to be held on 14 August 2019 from 2pm onwards at Preston Park, Eaglescliffe. While this is a fun day out for our children it is also an opportunity to celebrate with them and recognise some of their fantastic achievements. All are welcome.

The annual corporate parenting event is due to be held 11 December 2019. Further details to be shared nearer the time.

Children in Our Care (CIOC) Project Group

The work of the Dartington project continues with its focus on systems thinking, analysis will look at the level of need. A report of the findings of this work is due in the autumn.

The work of 'Valuing Care' has recently commenced with an aim to help us understand from both a strategic and operational perspective the needs of CIOC. This will support better planning for children and in doing so improve outcomes.

Children's Residential Review

This project is aligned with the Children's Sufficiency Strategy and is focussed on a range of services available to children in our care, both short and long term.

The vision is to be able to offer children an extensive range of options so we can better match a placement to a child's individual needs.

Health and Wellbeing of CIOC

The Corporate Parenting Board have sought assurance that strategically we understand the needs of CIOC with regards to their health and wellbeing. In response a task and finish group is in the process of being set up and amongst the tasks they aim to do is to understand our CIOC population better and the impact that health assessments are having on our children. This greater understanding will also help to target our resources more efficiently.

Rhona Bollands
Assistant Director, Children's Social Care