

Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday, 9th August, 2019.

Present: Cllr Barbara Inman(Chairman), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Officers: Tanya Evans, Rhona Bollands, Louise Addison, Jackie Ward, Jo Lee, Jamie Wassell, Michael Henderson, Dave Willingham, Janet Wilson, Rachel Mcloughlin,

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Marilyn Surtees,

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th June were confirmed as a correct record.

3 **Adoption Tees Valley Update**

Members considered a report that presented the second Bi – Annual report of the work of Adoption Tees Valley (ATV), which covered the period 1 October 2018 – 31 March 2019 and included key performance information from the prior period of 1 May 2018 – 30 September 2018, for first operational year reporting.

Discussion/ issues highlighted:

- ATV was achieving momentum in recruitment of adopters and the numbers of people coming through the service had increased significantly.

-53 children had been placed for adoption within the first 11 months.

- Early permanence was a key focus for ATV and Ofsted. It looked to make the child's journey, through care, as quick as possible, minimizing repeated moves. Members felt that Fostering for Adoption would support and assist in achieving early permanence.

- Members highlighted how helpful they found the case studies, included in the report, in terms of helping them to understand the issues involved.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4 **National Protocol on reducing criminalization of looked after children**

The Board was provided with a protocol for reducing unnecessary criminalisation in children in our care and care leavers.

The protocol represented a multi-agency partnership commitment to how the

principles and ambition of the National Protocol on reducing criminalization of looked after children and care leavers would be implemented locally.

Members were provided with details of the key principles of the protocol which included:

- understanding the needs and perspective of the child and listening to them
- understanding the adverse experiences that had contributed to offending
- de-escalation and restorative approaches.

It was explained that the protocol included sections on:

- Prevention
- Responses to incidents
- Reviewing incidents and learning
- Support for children who do enter the criminal justice system
- Children placed outside Stockton
- Restorative Approaches
- the virtual schools role
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Members noted that the new protocol had a bigger focus on prevention and undertaking interventions into the underlying causes of offending, than the previous protocol. It also differed from the previous protocol as it included care leavers and children, who were placed outside the Borough.

RESOLVED that the Protocol be noted and endorsed.

5 Update from Children in Our Care - Strategic Officer Group - to follow

Members received an update on the work of the Children in Our Care Strategic Group.

It was explained that the Group's Action Plan would be reviewed in 6 months, when the effectiveness of interventions would be assessed.

It was explained that the work of the Dartington project, looking at the level of need, would be available in the autumn.

Members noted that a report, on the impact that health needs assessments were having on Children in Our Care, would be submitted to the Board's meeting in December.

RESOLVED that the update be noted and an update , on the Dartington Project, be provided to a future meeting.

6 Accommodation Update

Members considered a report that described activity and monitoring arrangements in relation to accommodation for Children in our Care and leaving our care.

Specifically the report covered the following areas:

- Post 16 Supported Accommodation
- Unregulated Children's Homes
- Regulated external children's homes

It was noted that unregulated Children's Homes were only used when all other avenues had been exhausted. Currently only one young person from the Borough had been placed in such accommodation.

During discussion Members were informed of work that was ongoing around reunifying children with their families. It was suggested that an update on this work could be provided to a future meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. the updates on external provision be noted.
2. the processes associated with monitoring the quality of external provision be endorsed.
3. an update on work relating to reunification work, mentioned above, be provided to a future meeting.

7 Forward Plan

Members considered the Board's Forward Plan in the light of discussion at the meeting.