

Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday, 11th October, 2019.

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

Officers: Martin Gray, Andrea Stephens, Jackie Ward, Dave Willingham, Janet Wilson; Richard Chillery (Harrogate & District NHS FT).

Also in attendance: Cllr Lisa Evans.

Apologies: Cllrs Clark & Surtees.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

3 Virtual School Annual Report 2018/2019

The Board considered the Virtual School Annual Report for 2018/19 which provided an update on the educational progress of children in our care, as well as information about the Virtual school's commitment to continual improvement, its priorities and how it engages and celebrates achievement. The figures contained within were provisional and awaiting validation by the DoE at the end of November.

Issues highlighted within the Executive Summary included:-

- Ongoing increase in the number of Children & Young People in Our Care (CYPIOC) from 433 in July 2016 to 556 pupils in September 2019; which had an impact on capacity;
- The Virtual School Head Teacher post was job share as of March 2019 and a post of Educational Development Administrator had now been appointed to; with a further post of Education Achievement Support Worker for Regional Adoption now out for advert following joint funding provided by VSHT Tees Valley;
- Number of SEN for CYPIOC (37%) was significantly less than the national average (56.3%), and the number on EHCP in Stockton was 21% compared to 26% nationally - work was being undertaken to understand the reasons for this;
- Most outcomes for EY KS1 & KS2 were above national average, apart from Reading at KS2 (41%) compared to national average (49%);
- Early Years intervention work to ensure children were ready for school was a priority;
- Established successful Primary & Secondary hubs with Secondary hub to be set up within Teesside University;
- 6 key priorities had been identified and were noted for 2019/20 aligned to the Council Plan and Children's Services Strategy.

The Board queried one of these priorities, namely the number of schools that had completed the Attachment and Development Trauma/Theraplay Training; and it was noted that 60 out of the 79 schools had done so.

Work was also underway in readiness to implement Attachment Aware Behaviour Regulation policy based on a pilot currently being carried out by Brighton & Hove Council.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4 Children in Our Care Strategic Group (CIOCSG) Update

The Board received an update from the last meeting of the Children in Our Care (CIOC) Strategic Group (CIOCSG), which continued to meet on a 6 weekly basis and at its last meeting had considered:-

- CIOC Action Plan;
- Placement with Parents Regulations (PPR's);
- Virtual School Update;
- CIOC numbers;
- The Journey of the Looked After Child/Young Person placed out of the area.

It was noted that the work being undertaken regarding the journey of LAC/YP placed out of the area would focus on a review of 40-50 cases during the period 2017-19; and the findings from this review would be presented to a future meeting of this Board. As of September 2019, there were 175 LAC/YP placements out of area, which was slightly below neighbouring authorities.

Members noted also that plans to proceed in acquiring another Childrens Home were still ongoing despite a small number of purchases that had fallen through. TV Authorities were collaborating on this issue regarding the number of in-house residential providers they had in order to increase the potential number of providers we could engage with.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 Forward Plan

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