

Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday, 7th February, 2020.

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

Officers: Paul Diggins, Martin Gray, Michael Henderson, Janet Wilson, Jamie Wassell, Miriam Sigsworth, Dave Willingham Peter McGill??

Also in attendance: Ann Brock (HDFT), Jo Gamble (CCG), Vicky Davidson Boyd (ATV)

Apologies: Cllr Barbara Inman

CPB 28/19 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

CPB 29/19 **Minutes of meeting held on 6 December 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

CPB 30/19 **Adoption Tees Valley Update**

Members received a report that presented a half year review of the work of Adoption Tees Valley (ATV), covering the period 1 April 2019 – 30 September 2019.

Members were reminded that the key aims of the ATV were:

- reducing timescales for children waiting for adoption;
- reducing waiting times for adopters who had been approved;
- Improving the support being provided to adopted children and their families within the regional footprint.

This report provided information on performance against those key aims.

Discussion/ points raised:

- Working collaboratively, at scale, instead of competing for adopters had been extremely beneficial for all authorities involved.
- Members noted success in matching and placing children for adoption including two sibling groups of three children and five sibling groups of two children being placed together.
- ATV worked closely and positively with the virtual school.
- Members indicated that the case studies, included in the report were, again, extremely helpful.

- Members paid tribute to the group of social workers and all supporting staff making ATV work so well.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the work described endorsed.

**CPB
31/19** **Children in Our Care transformation work: Dartington Service Design Labs**

The Board was provided with a report relating to Children in Our Care Transformation work.

Members were reminded that in 2018, we commissioned Dartington Service Design Labs to undertake research and analysis into how services could be organised and delivered to better support children being able to live safely at home, whilst receiving support from Children's Services.

It was explained that Dartington Service Design Labs were a research organisation, who used 'systems thinking' approaches for strategy development and service redesign. They had worked with a number of public sector organisations, here and in the USA.

Dartington had been commissioned to work with the Council to help develop a better insight into the social care system, especially as it related to Children in Our Care. Project objectives included:

- a. achieving better outcomes for children
- b. a reduction in the CIOC rate
- c. improved social work practice
- d. establishing consensus and momentum around change
- e. wider learning for the sector.

The following outputs were delivered by Dartington:

- workforce engagement and consultation workshops;
- early support for the Coming Home / Going Home reunification work;
- a Behaviour Map of the Children's Social Care System;
- a Matching Needs & Services thematic review;
- a dynamic modelling tool; and interim and final reports.

There had been challenges but the Project had provided some good insights into the children's social care system, as it operated in Stockton on Tees and would be used to inform future developments, to be undertaken by the upcoming Transformation Work.

Discussion/Key points:

- members noted that many children were going into care because of parental need. Work to support parents was important.
- The numbers of children coming into care wasn't the only issue and re-unifying children with their families needed to be increased. Work would be concentrated on changing the service's culture to be more proactive in reunification work.
- Services would be developed to enable children and young people to leave care safely.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

**CPB
32/19** **Statistical Analysis**

The Board received a report, and presentation that assisted Members to gain a full understanding of the nature and scale of issues in relation to looked after children in Stockton-on-Tees.

The statistical analysis looked to provide a context to the current position, including appropriate comparisons with other local authorities over a timescale of several years.

The statistical analysis contained details on:

- Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority;
- Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March, by local authority;
- Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March, by local authority;
- Children who ceased to be looked after and the number and percentage adopted during the year ending 31 March, by local authority;
- Care leavers now aged 19, 20 and 21 by activity, by local authority;
- Care leavers aged 17 and 18 by activity, by local authority; and
- Children looked after who were missing or away from their placement without authorisation, by local authority.

The Board was reminded of its previously agreed baseline position and progress against it.

RESOLVED that the statistical data presented, and progress made against the baseline, be noted.

CPB **Forward Plan**
33/19

Members noted the Board's current forward plan.