

Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday, 10th December, 2021.

Present: Cllr Barbara Inman (Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Robert Cook, , Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Officers: Martin Gray, Jonathan Fawcett, Nigel Hart, Johanne Parker, David Willingham, Janet Wilson.

Also in attendance: Debbie Jones (Corner House); Lorraine Mulvey (NTHFT).

Apologies: None

**CPB
18/21** **Evacuation Procedure**

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

**CPB
19/21** **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**CPB
20/21** **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2021 were confirmed as a correct record

**CPB
21/21** **Corporate Parenting mid year 2021/22 performance update**

Members received a mid-year 2021/22 performance update for outlining progress made against key Corporate Parenting performance measures at end Quarter 2 2021/22, along with comparison against our previous two years' performance and performance across the region overall.

Regarding the movement of children into and out of care, the Council had fewer children per 10,000 starting to be children in our care than in 2020/21 and 2019/20 as well as in comparison with the North East overall. It also had fewer children in care per 10,000 than in 2020/21 and 2019/20 but slightly more than across the North East. It also had more children ceasing to be children care per 10,000 than in 2020/21 and 2019/20 but fewer than regionally.

Regarding adoption as the means by which children cease to be our children in care, the Council now had fewer children ceasing to be children in our care who were adopted since year end 2019/20. In comparison, across the North East overall, a more positive trend was emerging and our performance was currently below the region's overall in this respect.

The time the Council took in days for children entering care and moving in with their adoptive family was at its lowest since 2019/20 and Stockton performed better than the North East overall in this respect. Finally, the time taken in days between receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family was at its highest since year end 2019/20. A very similar trend is emerging across the North East however, comparatively speaking, Stockton performed better than the North East overall in this respect.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**CPB
22/21**

Virtual School Head Teacher Annual Report 2020/21

Members received the Virtual School Annual Report 2020 – 2021.

The achievements and good practice highlighted within the report were captured for members within a real life case study where through collaborative joined up working by several partners, an excellent package of support was put in place for a Year 6 pupil who as a result had continued to thrive since.

Members welcomed the excellent work undertaken and made reference in particular to:

-Extra curriculum activities provided by external agencies had an important role to play, however it was hoped that they would also seek to apply and reinforce some of the syllabus activities such as English & Maths. It was noted that the Education Advisory service would use the experience gained from these activities and seek to relate them to the curriculum;

- Members questioned why some schools appeared reluctant to share their school data with the Virtual Head Teacher? It was noted that schools nationally were not required to share their data, however it was a significant help in being able to pin point where support was needed. There was more of a hesitancy rather than reluctance involved and it was hoped that by this time next year, more and more schools would be willing to share their data;

-All children had probably suffered in some way as a result of the isolations they had had to suffer during the pandemic. For those that didn't or weren't able to attend lessons in person, how effective was the virtual support offered? There was no data to hand however some carers had gone as far as to say that some children had found the experience to be more beneficial, and despite the offer of additional help being made, no carers had taken up this opportunity.

Members welcomed a future update regarding progress of the Year 6 pupil highlighted in the case study.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

**CPB
23/21**

Post 16 and Care Leavers support and accommodation report 2020 – 2021

Members were provided with a report providing an overview of the arrangements for supported accommodation for our care leavers, young people aged 16 and over and any young person at risk of becoming homeless in Stockton.

Specifically the report:

1. Provided a summary on use of supported accommodation provision during Sep 20 and Aug 21, including any specific trends, capacity considerations and the responses of the Local Authority to meet demand;

2. Provided an update on the monitoring and assurance arrangements that our young people are placed in good quality accommodation.

3. Reported on the progress of the commissioning contract arrangements for supported accommodation (following the extension ceasing in October 2020) and provide an update with regards to future planning and challenges ahead.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

CPB Children in Our Care Strategic Group Update

24/21

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

Discussion and Key Points:

Members welcomed the established practices and procedures in place, the need for which were never more evident given the recent Arthur tragedy which occurred in Birmingham.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted and actioned, as appropriate.

CPB Corporate Parenting Board Draft Annual Report 2020/21

25/21

Members received a review of the work of the Board in 2020/21 which outlined functions, key considerations and progress made the year.

The report also outlined the current priorities for the Board for 2021/22, and the approach to the refresh of the strategy.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The draft Annual Report 2020/21 be approved and authority be delegated to the Chair of the Board to agree a final version for publication.
2. The proposal for a 2 year action plan for 2021-23 be agreed.

CPB Forward Plan

26/21

The Board noted its Forward Plan.

It was agreed that the Virtual School update be re-scheduled to 10 June rather than 8 April 2022.