

Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday, 7th October, 2022.

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

Officers: Rhona Bollands, Debbie Farrow, Jonathan Fawcett, Michael Hendeson, Jo Lee, Adele Moor, Mandy Rowlands and Dave Willingham (SBC)

Also in attendance: Vicky Davidson Boyd (ATV), Kendra Thompson (North Tees Trust)

Apologies: Cllr Pauline Beall

CPB Declarations of Interest

16/22

There were no declarations of interest.

CPB Minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2022

17/22

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

CPB Adoption Tees Valley Update

18/22

Consideration was given to a report to the Annual Report of Adoption Tees Valley 2021 - 2022.

Some key highlights from the report included:

- the number of children being placed with adoptive parents had reduced from 82, during last year, to 78 during the period of the report.
- the timeliness of moving in with adoptive parents had improved by 27 days. This was 43 days better than the government target.
- the timeliness of finding and matching with adoptive parents had improved by 64 days.
- More children had been placed with ATV approved adopters this year.
- The number of adoption support assessments had almost doubled during this year.
- ATV had been awarded the Coram BAAF Early Permanence Quality Mark.

Discussion and key points:

- Members considered the report to be positive.
- Eleven children were currently awaiting adoption. This was higher than usual but there were a number of siblings in the cohort.
- At present there were no hold ups associated with court hearings and the work

of the courts was commended, particularly in terms of completing Adoption Orders.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

**CPB
19/22** **Post 16 and Care Leavers support and accommodation
report 2021 – 2022**

Members considered a report that provided the Board with an overview of the arrangements for supported accommodation for the Borough's care leavers, young people aged 16 and over and any young person at risk of homelessness in Stockton-on-Tees and, specifically the report provided:

- a summary on the use of supported accommodation services, including a snapshot of young people accessing the service and assurances around suitability of those placement for the young people.
- an update on monitoring and assurance arrangements.
- sufficiency and commissioning updates, including areas of need and development to ensure appropriate services for young people.
- data and activity between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022.

Discussion :

- When supporting children whose first language was not English, translation services were used. It was anticipated that translation services would be incorporated into packages of support and be available to accommodation providers as and when needed.
- Members were pleased to note that bed and breakfast accommodation was not currently being used and suitable emergency accommodation was in place.
- Accommodation also included all the facilities needed including bedding, TV and kitchen equipment etc . Some providers allowed personal touches to be made e.g. painting walls.
- Rarely, young people didn't wish to take up the support and there was work to ensure that they knew that the help continued to be available to them, and they were encouraged to access it. There was a link worker that facilitated this.
- Young people were going to university. Many remained with foster parents, but any decision was supported in practical and financial terms. If students wished to come back to the area during holidays, then they were provided with accommodation

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

**CPB
20/22** **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan was noted.