

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

17 JULY 2018

Present: Councillor Merry(Chairperson)
Councillors Bowden, Hinchey, Jenkins, Lent, Lister, Molik and Weaver

These minutes were amended at the meeting of the Committee on 18 September, the amendment is show in bold italics.

1 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tim Davies, Irfan Alam and Sureen Kutubi.

Councillors Lent and Jenkins advised that they would be late in attending the meeting due to other commitments.

2 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Fenella Bowden to the Committee.

3 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 April were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

4 : OUT OF COUNTY INQUIRY REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Lee Bridgeman (Chairperson, Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee) to the Committee to present the report prepare following a Task and Finish Inquiry undertaken by members of the Children & Young People Committee. It was presented to Cabinet on 5 July and comments from Cabinet are expected in October.

The Committee were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members commended the report prepared as a result of the Task and Finish Inquiry.
- Members noted that during the inquiry evidence was received from a number of external witnesses including Voices from Care and Foster Care Wales. Certainly, some of those who attended from Voices from Care and now working but had all been in care previously.
- Members expressed concern that inconsistency in education can be

disruptive to those placed out of county, an example provided was a young person being placed out of county and not being able to access education provision for 6 months later.

- ***Members will note the increased funding allocated into the current 2018-19 Social Services budget of £7.2m to help with the increased demand for services to vulnerable people. The majority of this extra funding (£5.6m or 11.8% increase) was specifically allocated to Children Services to assist with the significant rise in the number of LAC being seen across Wales and throughout the UK.***
- Members were reminded of the information provided by a psychologist that gave a presentation previously that evidence suggests a child or young person is more likely to suffer from mental health issues if there have been a number of different placements throughout their time in care. UHB now have a key work programme and would ask that there be collaboration with the various departments.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

5 : CARDIFF VIRTUAL TRACKER

Gill James (Achievement Leader, Closing the Gap) provided Members with a presentation about the Virtual Tracker; a central tracking system that tracks Looked After Children's progress whatever school they are in.

During that presentation Members were provided with information about Capita One, which is a Children's Services database which works in conjunction with SIMS in schools and aims to give a single view of the pupil to Local Authority Staff. It acts as a school register, pupil information sheet, and gives about attendance, absence, exclusions and attainment.

The Committee were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members welcomed the introduction of the tracker, but queried the amount of resource. Officers confirmed that the PDG that supports looked after children is administered by the consortia; schools work in clusters and tender for funding.
- Members made reference to the need for good information sharing, particularly with health. It was noted that the MASH did not have access to children's mental health plans, however the Committee advised that a project group has been set up to consider a more collaborative approach.

RESOLVED – That the presentation and comments made by Members be noted.

6 : MEMBER WORK STREAMS UPDATE

Members updated the Committee on their work streams

- Councillor Bowden advised that she would welcome the opportunity of taking on the Education theme previously lead by Councillor Walker.
- Officers indicated that in respect of Councillor Molik's work stream an annual report would be requested from the ARC to enable the Committee to understand the help being provided to family.

Members were provided with a Briefing Report setting out information in relation to the rise in the number of looked after children as requested from the work stream lead for the Prevention.

- Councillor Lister advised that he would be seeking to discuss the ToR with the Chairperson and Senior Management within Children's Services to ensure that the work of the Committee is both realistic and undertaken.
- Members discussed the number of meetings and suggested that meetings should be increased to 6 a year. Members were content for an extra meeting to added in September for Officers to present the Bright Spots Survey and Action Plan.
- Members expressed concern that only a third of elected members had undergone the mandatory training, Members asked that members be reminded of the need to complete this training.

7 : MEMBER VISITS UPDATE

The reports in respect of this item were considered exempt from publication as they contained exempt information of the description contained in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded for consideration of the item.

8 : QUARTER 4 COMPLAINTS & COMPLIMENTS BRIEFING REPORT

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

9 : QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Appendix 1 of the report in respect of this item was considered exempt from publication as they contained exempt information of the description contained in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED - That

- the public be excluded for consideration of the item.
- the content of the report be noted.

10 : CROSSLANDS REGULATION 32 REPORTS

The reports in respect of this item were considered exempt from publication as they contained exempt information of the description contained in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED - That

- the public be excluded for consideration of the item.
- the content of the report be noted.

11 : TY STORRIE REGULATION 32 REPORTS

The reports in respect of this item were considered exempt from publication as they contained exempt information of the description contained in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED - That

- the public be excluded for consideration of the item.
- the content of the report be noted.

12 : URGENT ITEMS

No urgent items were received

13 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on Tuesday 16 October 2018 however, a further meeting is to be arranged in September.

The meeting terminated at 3.45 pm